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# The History of Londonderry

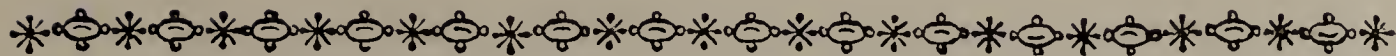






JUDGE ADDISON E. CUDWORTH

THE  
HISTORY  
*with*  
GENEALOGICAL  
Sketches  
OF  
LONDONDERRY, *Vt.*  
BY  
*Addison E. Cudworth*



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# Foreword

THE following pages contain the result of research and investigations first begun some forty years ago and continued from time to time, in a desultory way, thenceforward; written out, little by little, as facts were established or came to light, and ever more as a species of recreation and personal gratification than purposed task.

No publication of the same was then, nor for long thereafter, contemplated, and the manuscript grew in form of topics rather than chapters or effort to construct what might be called a chronological narrative; which may serve to explain the general form and frame-work in which they now appear.

The writer disclaims all ambition or desire to be termed historian and is content to pose as a mere gleaner among the records and traditions of by-gone days and in the field of former local activities.

They are now submitted in more permanent form with the hope that so they may escape total oblivion; "Lest we forget."

*Londonderry, Vermont, March, 1928*

THE AUTHOR

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

*This story of a Vermont town and its people is published by the Vermont Historical Society in accordance with its policy of helping to perpetuate such records. Judge Cudworth had devoted much labor to the preparation of a historical sketch of Londonderry, his labor extending over many years. It is probable that he would never have completed his task but for the promise, given to him by me on the Society's behalf, that we would assume financial responsibility for the publication. That promise, I am glad to think, led Judge Cudworth to complete his work. Unfortunately, he did not live to supervise its publication. Indeed, a final revision of the manuscript which he had planned was never made. It has seemed best to publish the manuscript just as he left it, rather than to attempt to give it the revision he had planned to give it.*

JOHN SPARGO

*President Vermont Historical Society*

*December, 1935*



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## Introductory and Descriptive

THE town of Londonderry, Vermont, occupies the extreme north-westerly corner of Windham County and, as now constituted, contains a little more than half of ancient Londonderry which was originally chartered as Kent and included nearly all the area of the present towns of Londonderry and Windham.

It is bounded northerly by Weston and Andover; in Windsor County; easterly by Windham; southerly by Jamaica; and westerly by Winhall and Landgrove, in Bennington County.

Its area is approximately 17, 450 acres and consists of hill slopes and narrow valleys having a fertile soil and affording sites for excellent farms, as well as some steep and rocky mountain slopes unfitted for cultivation but producing good timber growths of both hard and soft woods.

The greatest elevation is upon the extreme eastern border where the boundary line passes over the summit of Glebe Mountain, which has an elevation of 2944 feet above the sea level and 1923 feet above the village of South Londonderry, at its base on the west.

The territory is well watered by West River and its tributary streams of greater or less size within her borders.

This river enters the town from Weston on the north and, in a southerly course, passes through its entire length. Its tributaries from the east are Beaver Brook, which joins the river where it first crosses into the town, and Pond Brook, which is the outlet of Lowell Lake (formerly known as Derry Pond or Warner's Pond), a body of water of about 250 to 300 acres extent, lying in the northeasterly part of the township; while on the west it receives the waters of Utley Branch, from Landgrove, of Flood Brook and of Winhall River, the latter coming down from the main Green Mountain range and joining West River a short distance above where the latter crosses the line into Jamaica. Winhall River, a little above its mouth, receives the waters of Cook Brook which, having its rise near the summit of the mountain range, passes across the north-easterly corner of Winhall and through the south-westerly part of Londonderry to its junction with the larger stream.

There are two villages within the town limits, Londonderry and South Londonderry, both on West River and separated by a distance of about three miles. Two post-offices are located in town, one at each of the two

villages; one known as "North Windham," but located in the north-easterly part of Londonderry, having been discontinued upon the establishment of the Rural Routes from South Londonderry.

The West River Railroad (operated by the Central Vermont Railway Co. until the "Flood of 1927") had its northern terminus at South Londonderry village and connected with the main lines at Brattleboro, thirty-six miles to the south-east. Three miles below the northern terminus, and within this town, was located a station on this railroad, known as Winhall Station; but the destruction wrought by the flood stopped all operation of the line and needed repairs and replacements are yet unmade and uncertain as to construction.

The first telephone line reaching into town was constructed from Ludlow to South Londonderry, local donations of poles and labor having been made to insure its building. This provided service only at the two public stations, one in each village, and was maintained but a short time, never proving remunerative or very satisfactory.

Later, there was erected by the Melendy Telephone Co., a local institution in this town, a series of lines running into many of the adjoining and nearby towns and connecting with the "Marsh Line" at Chester and with the New England Tel. & Tel. Co. at Newfane, thus affording means of communication with the outside world. In addition to its several public stations, this line, or series of lines, gave service quite generally to patrons at their homes all along the course covered by its poles and wires. After many years of service the parent company sold out to the "Gleason Telephone Co.", which, in turn, disposed of it to the Windham County Telephone Co., the present owner and operator.

Mail service is rendered by two long established daily stage lines; one crossing the mountain from Londonderry to Manchester Depot, about fourteen miles to the west, and the other connecting South Londonderry with Chester Depot, via Londonderry, about seventeen miles to the north-east. And, since the flood of 1927, the mail from Brattleboro, which was brought on the railroad until that disaster occurred, has been brought to both the postoffices by truck daily. There is, also, a daily stage and mail service between the two villages, and three "Rural Delivery Routes" from the South Londonderry office have been established and in operation for several years past.

Measured by present standards, there is but small development of water power, but in years past, when small establishments and local manufacturing were the rule through the country towns, most of the sites were utilized and, considering the size of the town, quite a large amount of manufacturing was done.



The shrinking volume of flowage and the combination of capital that has developed power on larger streams, with the growing centralization of manufacturing industry in mills where the population was denser, have resulted in the abandonment of many former busy little mills and factories and the disappearance of the buildings and dams.

Londonderry is primarily an agricultural town and compares most favorably as such with any of the "mountain towns" in the state.

Its soil is strong and fertile and, for the most part, the portion suitable for tillage is well farmed and productive, yielding abundant returns of all crops suited to its latitude and altitude.

Few, if any, towns can offer more desirable sites for summer homes, attractive, sightly, with scenic beauty, health-giving air and the purest of spring water; and these are being taken up more and more by those who seek and find rest and comfort in close touch with nature.

The population of the town as shown by the last census (1920) is 911 and shows a decrease of 51 from the last preceding census.

The highest record thus shown was reached in 1860, when the town contained 1367 residents.

As now constituted territorially the township differs considerably from its original form and extent, having lost on the east most of the present town of Windham and gained a small gore of little more than nine hundred acres on the south-west.

It is believed that no history of the town has ever been seriously attempted, though in various Gazetteers have appeared brief, and evidently hastily written, sketches of its establishment and early settlement.

Much that has been written in these various articles and many of the traditions that have been current in town fail of support from authentic records, and many statements of alleged facts are by such records clearly shown to be unfounded and untrue.

Local histories and the annals of these little communities, in so far as they contain records and descriptions of actual occurrences and conditions, are of much interest and no inconsiderable value.

Indeed, if they be not the very threads from which are, or may be, woven the texture of more general history, they may well be termed the filaments from which such threads are spun.

The following pages are designed to preserve, so far as they may, from utter obscurity some facts and items relative to the formation of this town and its life for a century and a half; and no other excuse is offered for their existence.

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## Antecedents of the Founder and the Pioneers

IN a broad sense, History started "In the Beginning" and has, does and will run on like an endless serial.

Confined even to the smallest and most unimportant regions and communities, the study of causes and effects presents such an endless chain each effect when produced proving in turn the cause for further effect, that it is difficult to determine at what point one may best make the beginning of effort.

The very early New England towns have a history colored, in their beginnings, by the causes which led to the removal of the founders from their old homes to the wilderness where new ones were established, and note of these often helps the understanding of later occurrences.

While political and financial considerations were potent in some cases, they were, in the main, secondary to the greater moving cause which was religious in its nature, whether found in the English Puritan, the Scotch-Irish Protestants or the Quakers; all of whom, with some others, contributed to the beginnings of New England.

These earlier communities almost invariably proved fruitful hives whence went forth later swarms or groups to the forming of newer towns and pushing the frontiers still further back in the wilderness.

Ancient KENT (now Londonderry and Windham, Vt.) was one of the results of this condition and the offspring, in a certain sense, of the older town of Londonderry, N. H.

In reviewing the history of the younger town it may, therefore, be useful, even if not necessary, to refer to the circumstances attending the settlement and foundation of the older, and the antecedents of the first colonists therein.

New England is wont to claim, sometimes boastfully, a Puritan origin, but neither Kent nor the parent town in New Hampshire sprang from English Puritanism. They came from Scotch-Irish stock whose presence was distasteful, in large degree, to the Puritans and their immediate descendants, though as strict and rigid in religious beliefs and conduct as any and led to their migration by a like desire for religious freedom.

Long years before the accession of Elizabeth to the English throne, religious controversies had vexed the kingdom and raged with violence



throughout its extent; and for years the strife between Papist and Protestant, between the adherent of the established church and the nonconformist went bitterly on, developing a heat that kindled the fires of Smithfield. When Elizabeth ascended the throne those fires were indeed quenched, but the day of religious toleration had not yet dawned.

To us, of this day and in this land of religious as well as political freedom, the effort to fully conceive the rancor and bitterness of feeling between the warring creeds and their adherents in those days were vain. When Protestantism gained the ascendancy and the statutes of the realm assumed to fix the articles of faith and forms of worship the heavy hand of the established church was felt not only by its Romish adversaries but as well by those protestants who refused compliance with the prescribed forms and denied the right of Parliament to control their faith and religious life.

Upon the suppression of an Irish uprising early in the seventeenth century a large area in the north of Ireland fell to the crown by the attainder of rebels, and the English King encouraged his protestant subjects to settle there. Among others, a colony from Argyleshire, Scotland, passed over the Channel in 1612 and settled in the city of Londonderry, Ireland, and its vicinity.

When William of Orange overthrew James the Second and the latter, with his queen, fled to France, the north of Ireland contained in and about Londonderry a hardy protestant people, earnest and sincere in their beliefs.

Out of all the trials and persecutions to which these non-conforming sects had been subjected there grew in them a more earnest and steadfast purpose to follow the dictates of conscience in religious faith and practice, and a race or class was developed who were of courage, of deep convictions and true to those convictions to their utmost extent.

Quite equally with the Puritans, they were reverent, earnest and brave, of stern, unswerving purpose; and neither the force of persecution from opposing sects nor the arm of civil power could deter them from following what they deemed the true faith and pure worship.

Such were the Scotch-Irish Protestants in the north of Ireland when James the Second sought to regain his crown and kingdom.

In the spring of 1689, James came over from France, landed in Ireland and, gathering his supporters about him, marched toward the north of that island with the purpose of crossing over to Scotland where friendly bands awaited his coming. Had those well laid plans been successfully carried out, the progress of religious liberty and, probably, the history of England would have been wholly changed.

Only one town opposed James in his course until he reached the walls of the ancient city of Londonderry where his hopes were destined to be rudely shattered. Before the arrival of James on the scene there had been an attempt to place within the city a body of the Irish troops, most of whom,



with the Lord Lieutenant Tyrconnel, remained steadfastly loyal to him. The gates, however, were bravely closed by the citizens who firmly maintained their position, excluding the partizans of James.

On April 17th the place was fully invested and one of the most notable sieges in history continued for the space of one hundred and five days thereafter. They were ill prepared in everything but courage to withstand a siege or defend the walls, but of every resource they made the most possible. Resolutely they held out though famine, disease and death reduced their force; even, when absolute starvation seemed certain, decreeing that no man, on pain of death, should speak of surrendering the city. This stubborn resistance held James in check until ships bearing relief forced their way to the city, when the siege was raised and James, baffled and thwarted in his plans, withdrew with his forces toward the south where, later, he met signal defeat at the Boyne, when his hope of regaining his crown and kingdom was utterly overthrown.

Thus did these sturdy few prevent the junction of the Irish and Scottish forces of James, keep him in Ireland and save England and the western Lowlands of Scotland from witnessing and suffering the strife and bloodshed that must have followed his landing on that side of the channel.

William was not slow to recognize the service thus done him and his realm, and all who bore arms in defence of the city were by his order thenceforward exempt from taxation anywhere in his dominions.

Such as these, and of these, were the first settlers in Londonderry, N. H., and this exemption was enjoyed by some of their number until the American Revolution. Though thus gratefully remembered by their sovereign, they were still surrounded by people, some of whose fathers had been deprived of their lands by force, opposers of their religion and hostile to their every interest. They were without ownership of the soil, holding their lands by lease from the crown, and conscientiously unable to conform to the faith and forms of the established church of the realm.

Seeking a home where they might enjoy their religion without contention and where they might become proprietors of the lands whereon their homes were established, they sent an agent to the new world to secure and locate a tract for their occupation.

Reverend William Boyd, a Presbyterian clergyman, early in year 1718 crossed the ocean in their interest bearing an address, signed by two hundred and seventeen prospective emigrants who expressed a desire to remove to New England if afforded encouragement. Suitable encouragement was given and Mr. Boyd communicated the fact to his friends in Ireland. They then converted their property into money and set sail for their new homes, arriving at Boston in August, 1718.

There the party was broken up into smaller parties or colonies, the one in which our special interest centers being composed chiefly of the former con-



gregation of Reverend James MacGregor, who was himself of this body of emigrants. These people determined to continue their relations with each other and with their pastor when the precise location of their settlement was determined.

After a winter of great privation they learned of a tract called Nutfield which, on investigation, seemed well suited to their purposes and they there founded their settlement, which dates from April 11, 1719 (old style). They applied to the General Court of New Hampshire for a grant of this land and at length secured a charter from that Province covering a tract then named Londonderry, from the city of their former home and scene of their suffering and victory in the memorable siege.

This charter to the settlers of the New Hampshire town bore date June 21, 1722, and the town prospered and increased in population, wealth and importance with rapid strides.

These settlers very soon obtained for the products of the looms in town a most enviable reputation, and the linens of Londonderry manufacture found ready sale at higher prices than those from other sources.

They were also credited with having first introduced the cultivation of the potato into New England, and the facts seem to fully warrant such credit. Constant accessions to their numbers were received, by removals from other parts of New England to this town and also by the arrival of others from the north of Ireland; and after a few years we find them sending out settlers to other localities and aiding in establishing new towns in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts, even sending some as far west as to Cherry Valley, N. Y. and as far east as Truro, Nova Scotia.

One small party from this body comprised the first settlers of Kent, now known as Londonderry and Windham, in Vermont. While the founding of the parent town resulted from a desire for religious freedom, the establishment of the latter seems rather to have been based on expectation of pecuniary profit, coupled with some degree of love of adventure in new enterprises.

The nature of these people, as evidenced in their history for more than two generations, marked them as peculiarly fitted to be pioneers in developing and building up a new country, well calculated by their constancy and energy to succeed and to impress their own characteristics upon the new-formed communities.

Among the grantees, and earliest settlers, of Londonderry, N. H. was one James Rogers, who, according to Caleb Stark in his HISTORY OF DUNBARTON, N. H., published in 1860, removed and established his home, some years prior to 1746, upon the border of "The Great Meadow," so-called, on territory later known as Starkstown and chartered in 1765 as Dunbarton, N. H.; but Hon. Josiah Drummond, in a pamphlet published in 1902, contends that the James Rogers who was one of the grantees of Londonderry,

N. H. and this early settler of Dunbarton were distinct individuals and that the latter removed in 1739 from Methuen, Mass. to the place later chartered as Dunbarton. This Drummond account is said to be the one credited by the members of the Rogers family who have investigated the matter in recent years and seems to be well supported by ancient records of deeds, and other records preserved in New Hampshire. Whether Stark or Drummond are correct, it is established that one James Rogers and Joseph Putney (sometimes written Pudney) were the earliest settlers of Starkstown (Dunbarton) and their coming must have been some years prior to 1746 as apple trees by them planted there were then in fruit. That year their houses were burned, their orchards destroyed and their cattle slain by a band of hostile Indians, of whose approach they were warned barely in time to escape with their families, in the night, to Rumford (now Concord).

Neither Rogers nor Putney had any sort of title to the land they then occupied but, living at Rumford until 1749, they returned and again set up their homes at "The Great Meadow." Neither of them was named in the list of grantees of Starkstown (1751) but the proprietors not only confirmed their possession and title but assigned shares to the eldest sons of each. This was done in March, 1752, shortly before James Rogers died.

His death occurred prior to September, 1753, for in that month a meeting was warned to be held at the house of Mary Rogers, his widow, in the following month. He is said to have had six sons when he lived in Starkstown, three of whom, at least, were members of the famous "Rogers' Rangers" in the old "French and Indian War," Robert being the leader and commander while the other two were officers under him. One of these three was the James who later secured the grant of the township of Kent, now Londonderry and Windham, Vt., and became at one time its sole proprietor.

In 1760, this last named James was a resident of Starkstown and in May of that year purchased land in Londonderry, N. H. and soon moved to that place. It is not improbable that, during his military service, he became acquainted with the territory he later sought and obtained through the grant of Kent, and which lay between his home and the scene of much of his service with "The Rangers" in the vicinity of Lake George and Fort William Henry. Like his father, he seemed desirous of setting up his abode in some new and hitherto unsettled locality, though he took care to first secure title to the land he occupied. His purpose or attempt to build for himself a landed estate in the new territory was, as we shall later note, frustrated by subsequent developments.



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# Rogers' Petitions and Title; Change of Name and Divisions of the Township

THOUGH lying among New Hampshire Grants which nearly surrounded its territory, Kent was not of them, and the settlers had not occasion to fear that the New York authorities would attempt to disturb or contest their titles. In other respects their interests must have been like those in neighboring towns, and this community of interests resulted in their acting in unison with the other settlers at a later date.

The lands of Kent were as fertile, as accessible, as desirable and as well adapted for clearing and converting into productive farms as any in the adjoining towns, and why this tract was left ungranted all the while Governor Wentworth was disposing of townships west of the Connecticut River none can tell. Thomlinson (Grafton), Andover (then including Weston), Bromley (Peru) and Winhall were all granted prior to the date of the petition of Rogers and his associates for the grant of Kent.

The earliest document found relating or referring to that particular tract now comprised in Londonderry, Vermont, is a petition now remaining in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, N. Y.

This bears date October 12, 1765 and is signed by Jas. Rogers alone, though he sets forth, in the body of the petition, that he acts for himself and associates, and there is appended to the petition a list of the names of such associates.

Rogers based his petition upon the claim (as alleged therein) that by a previous grant they had,— or supposed they had,— some title to a tract of 26000 acres of land “lying on the east side of the water running from South Bay to Ticonderoga,” which had, in the preceding spring, been granted by New York authority to other persons. This previous grant and also the grant of Kent, later made, are fully set forth upon the original parchments still preserved by descendants of Colonel Rogers.

Just what, if anything, was done on the ground by way of surveys or exploration between the filing of this petition and June 29, 1766 does not definitely appear. Under the date last named, a draft of Grant or Charter was made setting boundaries to the township, then christened Kent. This grant was never formally executed or signed, but is still in existence and preserved in a private library in New York City.

It seems probable that this preliminary draft was submitted to Colonel Rogers, or was examined by him, for he filed another petition, signed by him as before, and bearing date the following day (June 30, 1766), in which he set forth that the boundary line on the east did not so run as to include all the land to Thomlinson west line and prayed for correction of such boundary. The discovery of this error in the original description of the easterly line of the proposed township may have been made through an actual survey, which some of the ancient documents indicate was made, or it may have been by reference to maps of the New Hampshire grant of Thomlinson.

Reference to the original draft of the Grant of Kent (which differs in some slight respects from the formal Grant later executed) indicates that the first petition was presented to Sir Henry Moore, governor of the Colony of New York, June 2, 1776; and also that the grant of land bounding on "the water running from South Bay to Ticonderoga," mentioned in Rogers' original petition, had been made by Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire. Notwithstanding the prayer for correcting the eastern boundary, the whole matter appears to have slumbered, so far as definite action was concerned, for some three and a half years, for some reason now unknown; and the Grant, when formally made, (Feb. 13, 1770) followed the description of boundaries set forth in the original petition, which resulted in leaving a triangular gore between Kent and Thomlinson with its apex at the north-westerly corner of the latter town.

When the Grant of Kent was formally issued it contained a reference to still another petition therein stated to have been "presented on the sixteenth day of January now last past" and to a "schedule or list" of Rogers' associates in whose behalf, as well as his own, the grant was sought and which contained the names given as grantees in the charter.

It is to be noted, however, that this list contains the names of only three, beside Rogers himself, who were among his "associates" on the original petition of 1765. All this gives foundation for the surmise, or the belief, that both were "straw lists" and that it was planned and intended from the first that the grant should enure wholly to the benefit of Rogers personally. Such belief is strengthened by the fact that, just one week after the date of the grant (Feb. 20, 1770) all these grantees, other than Rogers, joined in a deed conveying to him their several interests and title in and to the entire territory covered by the grant, which deed was duly recorded in the office of the Colonial Secretary at Albany. Thus Colonel Rogers became the sole owner of the township, of twenty-four thousand one hundred and fifty acres, save only the "Public Lots" described in the charter, and which were reserved for four specified purposes. By the terms of the charter all these lots were definitely located so as to form one compact body containing one thousand one hundred and fifty acres, and plotting the same upon the plan of survey of the township the tract is found to fall upon the rocky summit



and rugged sides of Glebe Mountain, which, probably, owes its name to this location of the "Glebe lands," one of the four tracts reserved.

Since the charter recites the fact that a survey of the township by the grantees had been made, this location of the reserved lots gives ground for belief that they were designedly so set out for the purpose of depriving the grantees of none of the desirable lands.

In fact no use of the "Public Lots" provided by the terms of the grant, as such, was ever made; nor could they have been cleared or occupied to any advantage or useful purpose. Even as thus located, the settlers regarded the actual reservation and sequestration with scant respect, as appears by action taken at a town meeting in 1775, when it was voted to take land in "some other part of the town for the school lot." This action was not for the purpose of covering a better tract of land, but for the reason that, as laid originally, "it interferes with James Patterson," who had "pitched" his farm at the foot of the westerly slope of the mountain, extending it up some distance upon the higher ground.

While there is no record of any action by the committee then chosen to act upon the subject matter of that vote, the proceeding indicates quite clearly the voters' lack of respect for the formal reservation in the very parchment under which they, as well as Rogers then residing here, held their lands.

For only a comparatively brief time longer, however, did Colonel Rogers remain in town, as in 1777 his loyalist principles led him to leave his family here on the homestead farm and to join the forces of Gen. Burgoyne. No evidence of a full and formal confiscation of his lands can be found and, probably, no such strictly legal action was taken, though the estate was treated as having passed from him to the State as a result of his joining the British army.

In March, 1780, certain "inhabitants of Kent" presented petition to the Vermont Legislature, as appears from an old *Assembly Journal*, but the petition itself is not to be found in the *State Papers* in the office of the Secretary of State. This petition was referred to a committee that reported, through Ira Allen, chairman, March 15, 1780.

The report was accepted and, on the same day, the Assembly "Resolved that there be and hereby is granted by this Assembly unto such persons as the Governor and Council shall direct a township of land (formerly known by the name of Kent) lying and being in this state to be incorporated by the name of Londonderry, and the Governor and Council are hereby requested to make out a charter of incorporation as specified in the petition, under such conditions, reservations and restrictions as they shall judge proper for the benefit of this state." The charter "requested" in this resolution issued in due course and was signed by Governor Chittenden under date April 20, 1780.

Londonderry, as thus established, comprised all of the territory of Kent, as then understood, but not all that was included in the original grant of the ancient town. It appears that in surveying or measuring out the boundaries of Kent the surveyor, one Mack began at the westerly end of the north line and measured easterly the prescribed number of chains, but that he did not reach the Thomlinson northwest corner. Running on the given course from the end of his measure of the north line to the south line of the township a strip of land across the entire easterly end of Kent, as granted, was not included in what he marked or termed Kent. This error, very likely, arose from permitting the chain to sag, or "lag," instead of being drawn taut each time. There was failure, too, to observe the rule that named and established monuments control the extent of the boundary line rather than the reported measuring of it.

The above explanation sufficed to give designation to the unmeasured strip, which was termed "Mack's Lag," later corrupted to "Mack's Leg," by which name it was and is locally known.

When Kent was granted (1770), Governor Wentworth had already granted townships on the north, east and west of the tract sought through petitions of Colonel Rogers and his associates, while New York authorities had granted to other parties lands now embraced in the northerly part of Jamaica, and it was intended to have the grant of Kent cover all the territory lying between Thomlinson (Grafton) on the east and Winhall and Bromley (Peru) on the west and extending southerly from Andover, (which then included most of what is now Weston), about six miles to lands earlier granted to parties who never made any settlement upon them under the New York grants.

Some months later than the grant of Kent, New York authorities made grant of a long, narrow strip, called Virgin Hall, which abutted upon the west line of Kent and extended, between that town and Winhall and Bromley and so far north as to include a portion of the territory now the town of Weston. Later this strip, or gore—was carved up by Vermont authority; a part, with addition from Bromley, being erected into the town of Landgrove, leaving about 930 acres at its southerly end and a tract north of Landgrove which was still later attached to Weston.

In October, 1781, Captain Edward Aiken, Moses Grimes, Hugh Montgomery, Robert Montgomery and Samuel Eyres, by petition addressed to Governor Chittenden and the General Assembly, prayed that the parcel of about 930 acres mentioned be granted to them. February 25, 1782, a grant of this parcel was made but, from the phraseology of the grant, it could hardly have been based upon that petition since it refers to a petition of Captain Aiken "and his associates, six in number," and grants the land to Aiken and five others, none of whom save Captain Aiken were parties to the petition of Oct. 1781. This tract was, by terms of the grant, annexed to



Londonderry and made part of that town. Kent never reached to the boundaries of either Winhall or Bromley. As thus constituted and bounded, the town existed until 1795, though there were evidences of growing contention regarding its division.

The bulk of Glebe Mountain, with its ridges falling away to north and south, formed a somewhat formidable barrier between the residents in the easterly and westerly parts of the town rendering communication between them, especially gatherings for town meetings or for church attendance, a matter of difficulty. In fact this condition long delayed the erection of a building for public worship.

At a town meeting, March 10, 1794 (with no article in the warning on such subject), it was voted "that there be a Committee chosen to find a dividing line formed to divide the town into two towns" and a committee of three was chosen. What, if anything, this committee may have done in the matter intrusted to them no record discloses, but the agitation for a division, in October of the following year, caused a petition from fifty-five "inhabitants of the easterly part of Londonderry" to be presented to the General Assembly asking that the town be divided by a line parallel with its east and west lines and equi-distant therefrom.

The prayer of this petition was granted and the division made on the line so mentioned; the easterly portion, together with "Mack's Leg," being made the town of Windham.

The division line, toward its north end, passed along so far down the west slope of the mountain ridge that it proved an unsatisfactory location, as it left the new town of Windham saddled upon the mountain, with residents on the westerly side who were inconvenienced as much as before were any in matter of town gatherings. Later there was added to the new town "Anderson's Gore," as termed, being the triangular tract between ancient Kent and Thomlinson.

In making the division of Londonderry and the establishment of two towns where but one previously existed, despite the provision of the constitution that "each inhabited town in this State may, forever hereafter, hold elections therein and choose each one Representative to represent them in the House of Representatives," the legislature provided that these two towns should have but one representative so chosen. In the year following the division certain inhabitants of Windham living in the north-westerly part of that town presented their petition asking that they be "annexed to the Township of Londonderry & that the dividing line between the said Townships of Londonderry & Windham may be established agreeably to the divisional line between the two military Companies formerly belonging to the said Township of Londonderry." This petition was signed by six individuals and there was indorsed upon it, over signatures of seventeen inhabitants of the two towns, a request that the same be granted.

This was dated Sept. 24, 1796 and filed Oct. 14. The *Assembly Journal*, or the filing on the original paper, shows that it was "Read & with remonstrance thereto & referred to a committee which reported that, having examined both, the facts set up in the petition were true and the petition should be should be granted," but both petition and remonstrance were referred to the next legislature.

Hearings were had prior to May 31, 1797 and on that date a report was signed by Samuel Fletcher, for Committee, recommending that the petition be not granted. This came before the General Assembly Oct. 17, 1797, was "read and not agreed to," and it was then ordered that "the prayer of the original petition be granted." Apparently there were then before the Assembly two remonstrances as two such documents, bearing date respectively Oct. 6 and Oct. 7, one from Windham and one from Londonderry, each signed by a goodly number of inhabitants of the respective towns.

These two papers, as well as the original petition with committee's report thereon, are found in the *State Papers* in the office of the Secretary of State and careful reading of all indicates that those who signed the remonstrances must have misunderstood the purpose of the original petition and acted under the belief that it was purposed to undo the work of the former session so as to leave Londonderry undivided and Windham without existence. It seems strange, however, that any one could read such meaning in the language of the petition.

An Act was passed fixing the boundary line between the two towns and the same, under direction of the selectmen of the respective towns, was "run out" and definitely established in 1804 and is still recognized, beginning at the north line of Windham (Andover south line) where "Middle Branch," so-called, crosses the same and following up the course of that stream "to the foot of Glebe Mountain," thence in a straight course to the top of the mountain, and then following the "height of said mountain to the ancient south line of Londonderry."

Not until 1804 was the restriction relative to representation in the legislature removed and then, for the first time, Londonderry, as now known, stood endowed with full rights and powers of a Vermont town.

Thus, after all these changes and the lapse of years, was Londonderry made a distinct territorial and political entity, as known to the present generation.

Few, if any, of her sister towns have had more of vicissitude and troublesome experience embraced in their early history or so much of diversity in the sources of individual titles to different parts of the territory within their boundaries.



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## First Coming of White Men; Slow Development of Settlement

THE earliest recorded visit of white men to this immediate territory appears to have been in May, 1748, when Captain Melvin with a party of scouts, having crossed the mountain range, presumably at "Peru Notch," on their return to Fort Dummer followed down West River (Wantastiquet) upon the bank of which, May 31, they were surprised by a party of Indians that had followed them. In the fight which then took place six of the whites were slain and one other mortally wounded.

The point where this occurred was located by Hall, in his HISTORY OF EASTERN VERMONT, in Londonderry, but discoveries later made, notably the finding of a small pocket compass, in the possession of Hon. Hoyt H. Wheeler at the time of his decease and believed to be the one carried by Captain Melvin and lost by him on this expedition, seem to definitely fix the place farther down the river, on the small meadow just above the railroad station at Jamaica. From the Journal or record of Captain Melvin, still preserved, it is apparent that the route of this party was down "Flood Brook" to West River about a mile above the village of South Londonderry, and thence down the river to Fort Dummer.

It is hardly probable that anything was done in way of permanent or actual settlement of the township prior to the date of the grant to Colonel Rogers and associates in 1770, though tradition says that Rogers, with a party of young men from Londonderry, N. H. explored the region in 1769 and that they, or some of them, then began work of hewing out homes here in the wilderness; one McMurphy erecting the first log cabin on the hill between the two present villages, on what was long known as "the Brooks Farm," later owned by John F. Johnson, and Robert Montgomery beginning his clearing on land now a part of "the Collins Farm" at the "Middle-of-the-town." In this party, it is said, were James, John and Robert Miller, James McCormick, Hugh Montgomery, James Patterson, John Woodburn, and some others. Very likely the traditionary date of this occurrence is too early by a year, at least, and that, whenever it did happen, the party returned to their homes in New Hampshire of the following winter.

Prior to this time a wilderness of forest covered the area and if civilized man had trodden its soil it had been as a wayfarer or temporary visitor. No evidence of any occupation of this territory by the uncivilized savages exist or have ever been discovered indicating that they ever made any point

within its boundaries a home or camp for any length of time. There can be little or no doubt, however, that they hunted and perhaps fought within our borders as, on rare occasions, arrow heads or spear heads have been found in the soil.

Whether the date of the exploration by Colonel Rogers and this party be 1769 or later, the fact remains that these men were among the first comers and the real founders of the town.

It is also said by tradition long current among our oldest townsmen that no family or party braved the Green Mountain winter within these borders until the winter of 1772. The reliability of this tradition is considerably shaken, or rather is destroyed, by an existing record of census taken by New York authority in 1771, as follows:

A list and account of ye Inh. of ye townsh. of  
Andover, Kent and Bromley in ye Co. of Cumb.—

Males under 16	4
above 16 und. 60	9
60 and upwards	1
Females und. 16	8
above “	6
	—
	28

Names of the heads of Families in the Townships of Andover, Kent and Bromley are Amos Babcock, Shubael Geer, Wm. Utley, Thomas Hill, Stephen Caswell. No. of heads of Families 5.

I certify that the above account contains the true number of Inhabitants in Andover, Kent & Bromley Distinguished by their age and sex and that the above is a true list of the head of each Family according to my best knowledge and I apprehend that I know all the inhabitants of those places.

*March 28, 1771.*

SHUBAEL GEER.

Of the five men named in this report it is practically certain that Wm. Utley resided in that part of Bromley which was later attached to Landgrove. Hon. Hoyt H. Wheeler, in his lifetime one of the best versed men in matters of our local history, upon his careful investigation of the subject, placed the residence of Babcock and Geer in Andover and that of Hill and Caswell in Kent. It is established that Babcock and Geer were in fact in Andover and, the report plainly indicating that a part of the inhabitants reported were of Kent, it may well be held that Judge Wheeler's conclusion was correct. No records or memoranda give us further information concerning either Hill or Caswell.



It is plain that they were within the borders of Kent in the winter of 1770-1771, but whence they came, where they lived while here and whither they went are alike unknown. Undoubtedly they were strangers to Col. Rogers and his title and, on his coming with his party to settle, removed from town; otherwise it would hardly be probable that neither of their names would appear in our records of the times, scanty though they be, or in any of the local traditions. Their coming, though first in point of time, was entirely barren of results as affecting the establishment and development of the town.

In the spring of 1772 Rogers' party returned, reinforced by other sturdy pioneers, among whom was Deacon Edward Aiken who afterwards became one of the prominent men among the fathers of the town and in the surrounding territory. Some accounts of the early settlement fix the date of opening this forest as late as 1774 but this date, certainly too late by at least two years, is doubtless, given from the fact that in that year the first title deeds were executed to any of the settlers who had located their farms. Even at that time not all of the men who had taken up, or "pitched" their lots and entered upon them received any deed or evidence of title from Rogers, the then owner, though some already settled received deeds in succeeding years from him.

The township was not settled and cultivated in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down in the charter nor, as the whole situation seems to have been, was it probably ever expected it would be.

From year to year, however, the number of settlers increased by accessions from Londonderry, N. H. and vicinity, together with a few from other localities, but the growth in population was slow.

Kent was probably surveyed and plotted, in part at least, as early as 1774, though no map or plot of that date is known to be in existence. One Samuel Gall, surveyor, ran the north line of the town, at least, in that year and deeds executed soon after, and among the earliest found in our records, refer to lots and ranges and to definite corners of such lots.

Andover was granted some years earlier than Kent (1761) and before Rogers' coming to Kent some of Andover's grantees had made settlement in that town, two families having been there established at the taking of the census in March 1771. It is highly probable that the boundaries of Andover and its division into lots had all been surveyed and plotted before the settlement of Kent. If so, this running of Kent's north line must have been in Rogers' interest and, doubtless, a part of the then general survey and division of the town's area.

The plans or maps of lots both in Londonderry and Windham now preserved were made in 1805, after the definite location of the divisional line. An examination of the plans or maps then made clearly indicates that the lot lines and ranges were determined by reference to some former survey

which existed before the division of the ancient town, as several lots are so marked as to show them running across, or resting astride, the dividing line between the two towns.

If this supposition be correct it affords a method of determining somewhat definitely what farms were "pitched" prior to 1774, for it will be observed that in the earliest settled portion of the town the farm lines overlap and cut across the lot and range lines at all sorts of angles. Most of the farms that show this peculiar feature we know were located prior to 1774 and it is believed that this is true of all of them.

The hardships, privations and trials of those who first entered upon the work of here establishing homes and organizing a town, when measured by what we now deem the comforts and even necessities of life, were many and severe.

While their experiences, in all probability, were no more trying and their hardships no greater than those of the pioneers in all the New England towns, yet, in the very nature of things, they appeal more strongly to those particularly interested in this local history. Their toil, sacrifice and hardships became, in a sense, a part of the township, its material being as well as its social, educational and religious life. Unbridged streams and a pathless wood greeted them, while an unbroken forest awaited the stroke of their axes. Weary journeys on foot or horseback, usually the former, brought them to the scene of their labor. Neither road nor bridle-path led to the sites of the homes they were to build and their coming was through stretches of virgin forest long before they reached the borders of Kent. None brought his wife or child until a later date, for there was then no place to afford them shelter. Each selected the location most satisfactory to him in its promise of fertility and fitness for home-building; staked out or "pitched" his farm, and, later, secured title thereto from Colonel Rogers, the sole proprietor. No deeds were given, as tradition states, until after the settlers had established their homes and brought their families here.

These "pitched" farms were, many of them, of irregular shape as the purpose seemed to be to include as much as possible of the best lands and exclude the waste places and undesirable acres, regardless of the symmetry of their several plots and of the many ill shaped gores of greater or less area lying between the farms. Most of these were in the northerly or northeasterly part of the town and, upon the division in 1795, a few of them were found to be astride the divisional line, partly in Londonderry and partly in Windham.

In 1805 each town was plotted by James Mack, surveyor, and the original maps or charts by him made are still preserved. In the westerly and southerly parts of the original township the territory is laid out and plotted with regularity in ranges and lots, while the farms in the earlier settled portions are outlined by very irregular lines not at all conforming to the lot and



range lines. This method of selecting their lands resulted in scattering the homes over a wider area than in the earlier settlement of many New England towns of even greater population according to their size. No necessity existed with them for close connection of dwellings as defense against the Indians and the bounds of neighborhood had then farther reach than in these later days.

An obstinate wilderness, privations and the beasts of the forest were the obstacles and trials that beset them and each was well qualified and prepared to meet these.

Most of their supplies of necessities, save what they raised or made for themselves, were procured at "No. 4", (Charlestown, N. H.) and transported along the blazed paths, at times on horseback and often in packs upon their own shoulders. The comforts of life were few with them and luxuries unknown.

Each home had its humming wheel and rattling loom from the product of which the deft fingers of wives and daughters fashioned the homespun garments for the family. Of money they had little and the surplus products of their farms were but scanty.

The ashes from the felled forest trees afforded them "black salts of lye" and pearl ash which, being "packed" to the larger settlements at a distance, were bartered for necessities which they could not produce at home. The tools with which their work was done were, for the most part, rude and clumsy and of household goods they had but scanty store.

For a time such corn and other grain as the farms produced for sustenance of the people must have been transported to a distance to be ground, or prepared by hand process, for there was no gristmill in the town prior to 1774. The very necessities of life came but slowly and with difficulty to the struggling settlers.

The ready rifles protected the sheep fold and pig pen from prowling beasts and avenged the frequent marauding raids of bruin upon their patches of growing corn, at the same time affording occasional and welcome additions to the larder. Tradition has preserved the story of two incidents of this character in the early days of the town.

Deacon Edward Aiken, having observed that his corn field had been invaded by bears, sought out the place of the trespasser's entrance; placed his heavily loaded gun in position to command the path, and arranged a connection of sticks and strings with the trigger to the end that the approaching animal should bring punishment upon himself. The report of the gun during the night led to an investigation in the light of the early morning when the body of a dead bear between the corn rows proved the precision of the Deacon's plans.

At another time, Mrs. Aiken, going out to the field where her husband was felling trees, observed their dog excited and intent upon some object in

a tree not far from the path. Closer investigation disclosed a well grown bear which had taken refuge in the tree. Her call led the Deacon to the scene and a well directed shot from his gun brought down the bear.

Not every encounter with the bears, however, was so lacking in the element of danger, as was shown by the adventure of David Hazen some years later (about 1820).

Hazen's home was then on the westerly side of the present highway leading past the Wright place, so-called, and in the small north pasture of the old Babbitt farm. He, with his son "Davie," then a young lad, were at work on the mountain side easterly from their home and near the old road that then passed along the side of the mountain some distance east of the present highway, gradually descending from the south. They had with them an axe and a gun, but no ammunition save the single charge in the gun. Seeing the bear in the clearing the father fired upon and wounded him. The bear being injured, though not disabled, they sought to drive him down the mountain into Daniel Harrington's clearing where they could secure assistance and ammunition for despatching him, the father carrying the gun and "Davie" the axe. Coming to a large rock the bear passed the lower side of it and the elder Hazen went around the upper side to prevent his going up the mountain. They met more closely than Hazen expected and the bear, rising on its haunches, seized him, whereupon he thrust both hands into the beast's open mouth and man and bear fell struggling to the ground. Responding to his father's urgent call, "Davie, be quick, be quick," the lad sunk the axe into the bear's back, and the older Hazen, being released, seized the axe in his mangled hands and dealt further blows upon the head of his now disabled enemy. Having made sure that bruin was dead, Hazen, unaided, walked to his home where his hands were dressed, while some neighbors brought the body of the bear to Daniel Harrington's house where it was dressed and hung up. It proved to be one of the largest bears ever killed in this vicinity. Hazen was so crippled in this affray that he was never able to use his hands for work thereafter, though he lived for many years, dying in Pennsylvania when upwards of ninety years of age.

About this time the incident, in somewhat modified form, was preserved in a bit of doggerel verse passed by oral repetition from one to another, after the style of Indian legends and traditions, and a very old lady who once lived in the neighborhood furnished a version of it to the local paper, in which it was published in 1891. This consisted of sixteen alleged "verses" or stanzas whose rhyme and metre were as sadly crippled as were Hazen's hands.

Gradually the conditions improved; the homes increased in number, bridle paths and roads came into being, the grist-mill, saw-mill and blacksmith shop made their appearance while the carding mill and fulling mill were built, lightening somewhat the housewife's work, and the forest slowly



gave way to cultivated fields. The post road and the tavern were established and, little by little those conveniences which we enjoy came to exist here.

In those early days no physician dwelt within many miles and in case of sickness they had to resort to the packages of leaves, barks, roots and herbs stored by the thoughtful housewife against such time of need.

There was no blacksmith shop in town until Samuel Arnold erected a rude forge near his home on "Arnold Hill," some twenty years after the first settlement in town. The building of highways came later and progressed but slowly. Blazed trails gave way to bridle paths from house to house and these were in turn converted into roads which would hardly be held worthy the name today, and were in great part destined to be abandoned as the town became settled and more convenient routes and grades were opened up. No records enable us to determine the definite location of many, or even most, of these roads of the earlier days, the majority of which are wholly obliterated. For the most part they were upon the higher, hilly courses rather than in the valleys and on lower ground where the main thoroughfares lie today. Many of the homes to which these earliest roads led were long since abandoned and the ghostly white birches and gloomy, thick-growing spruces have taken possession of the once cultivated fields, again asserting the forest's original dominion. For many years not even a bridle path existed in the southern part of the township.

In 1781 there were three roads in town and there is no clear and definite evidence that there were more. We cannot locate the course of any of the three with certainty but in October of that year there was a road laid by the selectmen and a transcript of the survey of the same was recorded in the town clerk's office under date Dec. 27, 1782. This is the earliest record to be found in the town archives relative to location of a highway.

From the transcript of survey we learn that this road began at a "bridge over a stream called the South Branch of Williams River, two rods south of the north-east corner of the town," and that passing over its course a few rods less than two miles we would reach "the crotch of the roads," which must have been at some point in the present town of Windham, near the height of land as we now pass over the road from North Windham toward "Popple Dungeon." Continuing in the course of survey two hundred and six rods we reach "Middle Branch," which is the stream flowing toward Chester from North Windham and is the present dividing line between Londonderry and Windham. Here, according to the transcript, begins "the road leading through the notch of the mountain to Mr. James Pattersons" and continues, by sundry courses, one hundred twenty-four rods "to the road leading from Thomlinson (Grafton) by James McCormick's to Winhall."

In 1783, the next highway of which a record is found in the town clerk's office was laid from the point where this road of Oct. 1781 crossed Middle

Branch and extended to the west line of the town, according to the survey, a distance of six miles and seventy rods. These two roads were evidently intended to be, and were in fact, the then main thoroughfares for, in 1787, when the transcript of survey of two other roads was recorded the starting point of each was on this main road which was referred to as "the Leading Road, from the north-east corner of the town to the west end thereof." These two later surveyed roads began at different points on this "Leading Road" and each extended to the north line of the town.

One of them began at "a hemlock tree on the side of the road," led to William Cox's house, then, by four courses, a few rods over a mile to "the place that the bridge stood on West River in Rogers' improvements," thence by eight courses, 299 rods, "to Ebenezer Patterson's barn," and one hundred rods farther "to the north line of the town."

When we consider that the hemlock tree, Cox's house, Rogers' bridge and Patterson's barn all disappeared long years ago leaving nothing to now indicate their location, or even the fact that they ever existed, the impossibility of following the course of the road is apparent. This bridge referred to doubtless crossed West River at some place within the tract pitched by Colonel Rogers for his homestead and on the meadows lying below the Weston south line, on the Wyman farm or the Deacon Dodge place, and was, without doubt, the first bridge built across that stream within the town's limits, for Colonel Rogers ceased his making of improvements here as early as 1777, when he left Kent and joined the King's forces with which he served until the close of the Revolutionary War.

For the first time, Kent seems to have taken active part with the "Grants" in proceedings looking to a separation from New York and a repudiation of the claims of that Province, and establishing an independent State, at the adjourned session of the General Convention at Dorset, Sept. 25, 1776, when the town sent Edward Aiken and Colonel James Rogers as delegates. Previous to this only one town from the east side had been represented in any General Convention.

The town of Townshend was represented by Captain Samuel Fletcher and Joshua Fish at the Convention which assembled at Dorset on the 24th of July, 1776, and adjourned to the 25th of September following. At this Convention, on the 25th of July, 1776, a committee was chosen "to treat with the Inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants on the East side of the range of Green Mountains relative to their associating with this Body."

Captain Heman Allen, Colonel William Marsh and Doctor Jonas Fay, in conjunction with Captain Samuel Fletcher and Joshua Fish constituted this committee and Doctor Fay, Colonel Thomas Chittenden and Lieutenant Ira Allen were directed to prepare instructions for them. As a result of the labors of the committee, at the adjourned meeting in September there were eleven towns, including Kent, from the east of the mountains represented.



In this meeting Colonel Rogers was a member of the committee appointed or chosen "to form a plan for future proceedings and report to this convention as soon as may be."

The report of this committee was, on the 26th of September, accepted by vote of the convention, and was clearly in favor of proceedings to establish a separate State. There is no record that indicates any dissent on the part of Rogers to this action, but it is the last time, as well as the first, that he appears to have been identified with any of the movements in favor of separation and his subsequent conduct leads to the conclusion that he was not in sympathy with such action.

This convention adjourned, on the 28th of September, to the 30th of the following month at the Court House in Westminster, after voting that no person be allowed to act in choosing Committees of Safety "but those that sign the Association from this Convention and acknowledge the authority of the Committees of Safety," and providing for notifying the several towns. Colonel Rogers' absence from all the later deliberations indicates that he, probably, declined to sign such "Association" and to recognize the authority of the "Committee of Safety," though Edward Aiken, the other delegate from Kent, evidently did so for he was appointed to notify Kent and Chester of the action taken and was present as a member from Kent at Westminster October 30. The following day the Convention adjourned to the third day of January, 1777, at the same place, but at that meeting Kent was not represented and therefore did not participate in the declaration of the independence of the New Hampshire Grants under the name of New Connecticut. The Convention again adjourned, this time to the first Wednesday of the following June, at Windsor, at which session the name of the new state was changed from New Connecticut to Vermont. That Kent had a voice in this is quite certain, as the name of Edward Aiken appears in the list of members present.

Two lists of the members exist, each giving the same number (72). One is the record of the Convention and the other a list published in the *Connecticut Courant*, June 30, 1777, in connection with the proceedings of the Convention. The former, which would seem the better authority, names Lieutenant Leonard Spaulding of Dummerston, Edward Aiken of Kent and Andrew Spear of Reading, none of whom appear in the latter, which contains in their place, to make out the full number, Amaziah Woodworth, Joshua Webb and Captain William Curtis.

Some of the residents of the town may have been inclined, like Colonel Rogers and in sympathy with him, to recognize New York authority though there is no evidence that any of them shared his Tory views and principles.

At a meeting of the "County Committee" at Westminster in June, 1777, Kent was represented by James McCormick whose credentials were as follows:

KENT, June 2, 1777

These are to Sertify that the Bearer, *James McCormick*, was Legally Chosen by the inhabitants of Sd town to Represent them at Westminster the 3 of this Instant at a Preposed Meeting of the County Committee by Vartue of New York authority.

EDWARD AIKEN, *Town Clerk*.

This meeting was adjourned from time to time during the remaining part of that year, but at none of the meetings after the first does it appear that McCormick was in attendance. There remains no record of the meeting or meetings at which delegates were chosen to represent Kent in any of these Conventions, or of any action of the town in relation to the matter.

The fact that very few towns were represented at these adjourned meetings, though all were notified and urged to attend, shows the growing sentiment in favor of a complete separation from New York.

Not far from this time, probably on the occasion of Burgoyne's advance, in the summer of 1777, Colonel Rogers joined the King's troops, though his family remained in Kent. Soon after his flight, his property, consisting chiefly of lands in the town then unsold, was taken in charge by the Committee of Safety in behalf of the State.

On the 3d of October, 1777, Captain John Simonds was put in charge of the same, under authority of the Committee, by the terms of an order as follows:

#### STATE OF VERMONT

To Captain JOHN SIMONDS:

*In Council of Safety 3d Oct. 1777.*

SIR — You are hereby authorized and impowered to Let or Lease all of the Estate of *Colonel* James Rogers late of Kent, (now with the King's Troops) both real and personal and all Real Estate (except so much as humanity requires for the Comfortable Support of the family left Behind) you will Sell at public Vendue and Return the Money Raised on such Sail (after the Cost is paid) to the Treasurer of this State. The improved Land you will Let or Lease to some proper person or persons as you shall judge will best serve the purpose of supporting the Family & the Benefit of this State, not exceeding the Term of Two years.

You will return to this *Council* an account of all the Estate boath real & personal that you shall seize. You will Take the Advice of the *Committee* of the town of KENT with regard to what part will be sufficient to support the family. You are to obey the orders of this *Council* from time to time, relative to said Estate and settle your accts. with them or their Successors, or some person or persons appointed for that purpose & you are to do it on oath.

BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL

THOMAS CHITTENDEN, *Prest.*

*Attest Joseph Fay, Sec'y.*



Just what was done, if anything, by Captain Simonds by virtue of this authority is uncertain as records of deeds or leases from him are sought in vain.

In October, 1779, he was called upon by the Council to make settlement with the Treasurer of the State, but we have no knowledge as to whether he made a settlement,—nor what the settlement, if made, disclosed he had done.

At some time subsequent to the flight of Colonel Rogers it seems Thomas Chandler (Jr.) made, or pretended to make, some conveyance of lands in Kent, but in October, 1779, the Council were inquired of as to what authority he had for so doing and, upon receipt of their reply, the House resolved that those lands were not legally sold.

Evidently this pretended sale or lease was made in the interest of Colonel Rogers. One conveyance or lease so made by Chandler was to Daniel Marsh, and the House joined with the Council, Oct. 22, 1779, in so far recognizing this bargain as to permit Marsh to receive the products of the land for that year, the same to be expended on the premises.

At the same session, pursuant to a resolution of the General Assembly providing for the support of Mrs. Rogers and family, the Council voted that she be put in possession of certain property and estate mentioned in the resolution, which included the farm whereon she then lived, with farming tools and household utensils.

This action in behalf of Mrs. Rogers and family resulted from the report of a committee which had been appointed "to Enquire of Mr. Megreegers," ("Messrs McGregores" in the *Assembly Journal*) "concerning the estate of Colonel James Rogers."

At this time Mrs. Rogers had become disabled, from losing the use of her limbs, and doubtless the persons inquired of by the committee were her relatives who were acting in her interests, as she was a daughter of Reverend David McGregor of Londonderry, N. H. and none of that name were then resident in the vicinity of her home in Kent.

While the Committee of Safety and the State thus assumed full control and management of the estate, even asserting the right of so disposing of it as they might will and retaining all avails arising from its lease or sale, it nowhere appears that there was any confiscation of the property of Colonel Rogers in the full and true sense.

Though his course and conduct were readily susceptible of proof and were such as to warrant the forfeiture of his lands, there was no proceeding in any court, nor formal hearing anywhere, for the determination of facts upon which confiscation might be based.

The Committee and the State seem to have reached out the strong hand and seized what they would without strict or due regard to legal rules.

Indeed, it appeared later that this lack of strict legal procedure was the cause of Colonel Rogers' failure to secure from the Crown, after the close of the Revolutionary War, any reimbursement or compensatory grant for the lands he had been deprived of through Vermont's action; which fact was recognized and acted upon by the State Legislature when, later, upon petition of the son and executor of Colonel Rogers, it directed the return of the then unsold lands.

In February, 1779, some of the inhabitants of the town presented their petition to the General Assembly for the confirmation of "bargains" in lands that had been made by Colonel Rogers. It appears that these "bargains" were recognized by the Assembly though they voted that "no deeds be executed until the proper lines of the town be ascertained."

The title to much of the land in town, especially the improved land, was thus in a condition of confusion and uncertainty and, in March, 1780, a resolution of the General Assembly gave directions as to disposing of the lands by a Charter of the town, and on the 10th of June following the Council chose Colonel Samuel Fletcher, Deacon Edward Aiken and Major Joseph Tyler as a Committee to receive the Charter and to dispose of the lands. The Charter naming these three men as the grantees, however, antedates this action as it purports to have been made April 20, 1780. This Charter gives the name of Londonderry to the town thereby established and gives definite boundaries to the same.

These boundaries are not identical with those given in Rogers' original petition or the New York grant of Kent, the latter including considerable land which was southerly of the "Londonderry" south line and now forms a part of Jamaica.

This Committee made many conveyances of land during several succeeding years and their deeds, so far as the "record title" shows, are the foundation upon which record title to many of the farms now rest.

Lacking a formal confiscation of Rogers' estate which would stand the strict test of legality, it would seem that such record title as exists would need support of a possessory title under the statute to complement it. This Committee's control and disposal of this property was undisturbed until 1795 when James Rogers, of "Upper Canada," a son of Colonel Rogers, applied to the State Legislature for a return of the lands formerly belonging to his father which were then unsold by the Committee, on the ground that the same had not been legally confiscated and the "Commissioners of American Claims" would not allow compensation for these lands, "except such part thereof as had been legally confiscated or absolutely sold previous to the treaty of peace betwixt Great Britain and the United States of America."

The legislature thereupon passed an act authorizing and directing the Committee, (Messrs. Fletcher, Aiken and Tyler) to convey the unsold lands



according to the prayer of the petition, on condition that he pay one thousand dollars into the treasury of the State and execute a quit-claim deed of all the lands in Londonderry which had been sold by the Committee prior to the passing of that act.

He complied with these conditions and the Committee by their deed under authority of the same act conveyed to him, for himself and other heirs of his father, the lands then unsold.

In 1797 he petitioned the legislature that the Committee be authorized to account to him for the avails of lands by them sold, except such part thereof as they had paid into the State treasury. An act was passed for that purpose, conditioned that he pay the Committee for their services in attending to the sales by them made, then supposed to be not more than about four hundred dollars.

He gave his bond, with surety, in the sum of eight hundred dollars conditioned for the payment of four hundred dollars by Nov. 5, 1799, but upon settlement with the Committee their bill was found to be one thousand dollars, and they had paid into the State treasury from their sales something over three thousand dollars. Rogers paid them the one thousand dollars for their services and upon his petition to the General Assembly in October, 1799, an act was passed directing the treasurer of the State to give up the bond to be cancelled.

Since that time no further disturbance of these land titles has been made.

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## Public Lands; and Land Titles

At the original creation of the township of Kent, in municipal sense, and by the terms of the charter granting the tract given that name, provision was made to aid in establishing and maintaining religious and educational activities in the newly formed municipality.

The King's charter set apart three hundred and fifty acres for use of the *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*: a like area for the use of the clergyman "in Communion of the Church of England, as by law established, for the time being residing" in the township.

Three hundred and fifty acres were also set apart for the first settled minister in the town, and one hundred acres for the use of a schoolmaster residing therein. All these several tracts or lots were definitely described and bounded in the grant.

Neither a clergyman of the Church of England nor a schoolmaster was at hand to claim his own and no steps were ever taken to make use of any of them for the purposes indicated; nor could they, as located, have ever been put to any useful purpose other than for adding beauty to the mountain scenery, a use not then so highly appreciated as in later years.

In the brief time that Kent existed under this charter little indeed could have been done to make them serviceable for these or any of these purposes and nothing of the kind was attempted. In truth, from the location and character of the lots so then described, more than human power would have been required to secure income or service from them.

In fact the only allusion to such public lots disclosed by any of the town records is found in an article in the warning for a town meeting and the action thereon on May 8, 1775. What the committee then chosen did, if anything, under the authority of this vote is not known, as there exists no record of their action nor of any town meeting for about two years following.

When the Vermont Legislature, in 1780, chartered Londonderry (the ancient town), a portion of its area was specifically devoted to public uses, but the location of the plot or plots was left to be determined by the local or town authorities. One sixty-fifth part of the acreage of the town was to be set apart for each of the following purposes: For the use and support of a seminary or college within the state; for the use and support of the County Grammar Schools throughout the state; for the use and support of the first



settled minister of the Gospel in town; for the support of the ministry, and for the benefit and support of a school or schools within the town.

In December following the date of this charter a committee of three was chosen "to Pitch ye Publick Rights in ye Town," and it was "voted that the Town of *Londonderry* Hereafter shall have two Centers, and the Publick Lots so be laid out accordingly." No record, however, is found showing a report from this committee or action taken by them in the matter.

Some of the lots were set out prior to the division of the town, and probably under the authority thus given, a part of which were in that part later set off as Windham, but not all of them were then located.

A town meeting was held in August, 1796, and the warrant contained an article "to see what the town will do about leasing their school lots of land." While the records of proceedings at this meeting do not in terms refer to the "school lots," it was voted that "there be 3 men chosen to treete with the town of *Windham* In Some town affairs."

That those town affairs referred to this matter of the public lands, or at least included the same, is not to be doubted.

Samuel Arnold was the chairman of the committee thus chosen and there is preserved a memorandum and computation in his handwriting showing the area and location of three lots in each town which had been previously set out, presumably under the vote of December, 1780.

This computation showed that, in proportion to the acreage falling to the respective towns on the division of the ancient Londonderry, this part retaining the old name should set out 254 acres and Windham 183 acres for each of the five public rights or shares reserved in the charter. The memorandum also indicates that the lots set out in Londonderry were No. 4 in 7th Range; No. 5 in 7th Range, and No. 4 in 3d Range, a total of 595 acres. No date appears on the memorandum, nor is a report of the committee found, but, by vote of the town (Londonderry) on June 28, 1798, No. 4 in 7th Range was set for use of the County Grammar School, No. 1 in 5th Range for use of College ("170 acres"), and No. 1 in 1st Range "for public uses." The next two lines of the record are legible only in part that an additional 125 acres were devoted to use of college, in the "north part of lot." Whether this action was based on the report of a committee or otherwise does not appear but, at a town meeting on May 20, 1801, a record states that "the committee appointed to pitch the public lands in Londonderry reported that they have pitched the following lots, to wit: Lot No. 4 in third range for the use of the first settled minister & lot No. 4 in the seventh range for the use of the ministry, and lot No. 5 in the seventh range for the use of schools in sd town, and we have pitched sixty-seven acres of the west end of lot No. one in the fifth range to make up the complement of the afforesaid Rites as allowed by the original charter of said town granted by this State."

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It was thereupon voted to accept the report and "trustees" were chosen to appraise and lease, "in conjunction with the selectmen," the public lots. Under the authority thus conferred the leasing of the lands, or public rights, went on for several years, the leases providing for payment of annual rents, for the various purposes named, and running "so long as wood grows and water runs." It seems that the "ministerial lot" was not included in any of these leases under the vote of 1801 for twenty years later there was a vote to lease this lot and sundry leases were executed between 1828 and 1834 covering its full extent.

Even after all these votes, reports and action on the part of the town, and in spite of the fact that one committee had reported the setting out of the full complement required by the charter, at a later date a portion of lot No. 4 in the 10th range was added to the so-called public lands and leased in 1831. In 1842 there had arisen a controversy regarding the lot set out for the first settled minister and the town, at a special town meeting called to take action in the matter, June 2, 1842, "voted that this town do defend against all claims on lot No. 5 in the seventh range that Seth Ewers, his heirs, executors or administrators has made or may make as by the said Seth Ewers pretending to be the first settled minister in said town of Londonderry." Probably no action was ever instituted to test the validity of Ewers' claim for no record relating to a defence made to such is to be found.

The control of the "Grammar School Lands" was for a time in the hands of the Corporation of Windham Hall, chartered in 1801 as a County Grammar School and located at Newfane. In 1824 this corporation conveyed its interest in these lands to *The Londonderry Grammar School Corporation*, chartered in 1822, which continued its organization from that date until, by statute, the control of such lands was given to local school officers, in 1908, though its activities were exerted only in the collection of the rents and voting the same from time to time to the town for support of common schools. The so-called College Lands have been leased by the University of Vermont which collects for its use all the rents thereof, and the town has no direct interest in the same.

This sketch as to the Public Rights or Lots, if of interest in no other respect, serves to show the manner in which the town fathers managed municipal affairs and to indicate the extreme difficulty of determining what, in fact, they did do in respect thereto, owing to the fragmentary state of the records as well as the often contradictory and conflicting actions disclosed.

In investigating the ultimate basis of record title to other lands in Kent this vague and rather unsatisfactory condition is found not to apply to the public lots alone. Notwithstanding all the contentions and denials of New York's jurisdiction over any of the territory termed "New Hampshire Grants," Vermont, after asserting its independence, appears to have tacitly



admitted, in the case of Kent, that its grant had some real validity. The new state did not treat the township as unappropriated land but, through its Council of Safety, directed Captain Simonds to take in charge the "estate of Colonel James Rogers."

The title of the Colonel had its basis solely on the New York Colonial Grant of 1770, as one of the grantees therein, followed by the quit-claim deed of all his associates named in that document.

Another peculiar circumstance is to be noted in that, while directing the seizure of all of Colonel Rogers' lands, in 1777, the grant, in 1780, to the "Committee" authorized to dispose of it the legislature described its boundaries in terms which excluded a considerable area embraced in the grant of Kent, and therefore a part of Rogers' estate.

If New York had not admitted authority to convey title by its grant, it would seem to follow that Rogers had no lands here and there were none to confiscate as his estate. Previous to his leaving town the Colonel had conveyed a few tracts and his grantees were left undisturbed in their holdings. The "Committee" made many sales under authority of the Vermont legislature and, by like authority, conveyed the balance in their hands to the younger James Rogers "for the use of himself and the other heirs of Colonel James Rogers, their respective heirs and assigns."

The younger James thereafter proceeded to dispose of this balance, giving deeds in his sole name as though the fee was in him alone, after having quit-claimed (likewise in his sole name) those parcels the "Committee" had already sold. Nothing appears to indicate that the other heirs of Colonel James made any disposition of such interest as had passed to them by terms of the Committee's deed mentioned.

"Possession," in view of all this tangle, would therefore seem to be the true foundation of present titles.

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## Some Early Homesteads and Taverns

DESIRABLE as it may be to locate the sites of the earliest established homes in town, and interesting as would be the details regarding their upbuilding and occupancy, to find and to record these is not merely difficult but, in most instances, is impossible.

Not even the names of all who constituted the first party of pioneers can be given, and the same is true as to many who came in the early succeeding years. The method of locating farms by "pitching," the lack of any early plotting of the township or lots therein, the absence of contemporary records, as well as the removal of some of the earliest residents after very brief stay, all conspire to increase the difficulty met with in efforts to secure information as to these locations or the details of the settlement. Many of the earliest families settled in the eastern part of Kent and, upon the division of ancient Londonderry, were found to be residents of Windham. Nearly all the others located in the northeasterly part of the present Londonderry, some of these removing to new fields so soon that their influence upon the development of the town was extremely slight at the most. Of some few early homes we have, by scanty records and more or less well preserved traditions, some knowledge but all too little is the best of this.

Colonel Rogers' home was on the easterly side of West River, on the higher ground northerly of the farm now (1927) owned by John E. Carleton, where the forest has since asserted its ancient dominion.

This was on the southerly part of the tract which he set out as his homestead farm and which extended, on both sides of the river, up to the north line of the town, including parts of what now are four farms on the west side of the river and an equal number on the easterly side.

When he came here he left his wife in Londonderry, N. H., and it is not certain whether at that time he had any children surviving.

From the best information attainable it seems quite certain that he did not bring his wife to Kent earlier than 1774.

Two children, at least, had been born to them in Londonderry, N. H., both of whom died there in early childhood. In this new home another son was born, to whom belongs the distinction of being the first white child born in Kent. He was named David McGregor Rogers, taking the name from his maternal grandfather, and, on his father's decease, after the re-



moval of the family to Canada, he succeeded to his father's position as the head of the family interests. He was a man of note and influence in the Province, for twenty-four years representing his District in the early Houses of Assembly of Upper Canada, dying in 1824 while still in such office. On this homestead in Kent the family resided until, following the close of the Revolution, the father came down from Canada and took them to his new home in that Province.

This farm was conveyed to Margaret Rogers, the wife of Colonel James, by Edward Aiken and Joseph Tyler, acting for the "Committee" appointed to dispose of Colonel Rogers' lands, under date Oct. 12, 1782, and, after her husband's decease, she gave power of attorney to her son James to dispose of this, among other matters, but when he made conveyance of it, Jan. 31, 1795, he did so in his own name as though title stood in him. His grantee, on the same day, conveyed the farm to Patrick Larkin, who came from Bedford, N. H. and here resided until his death about 1812.

James Patterson, said to have been the oldest of the members of the original Rogers' party, pitched his farm at the foot of Glebe Mountain near its northerly end, extending it well up on the slope. This is, even now, at times spoken of as "the old Patterson place," but in the later years has been locally known, successively, as "the Dudley Howe farm" and "the John Stuart place," now the home of Charles E. Cromack.

William Cox, then unmarried, came with the first party of settlers. At that time he was in the employ of Colonel Rogers and aided in the clearing and improvements upon the latter's home farm, as it was to be.

Later he married Sarah McCollop, an employe in the Rogers family, theirs being the first marriage in Kent, and took up land for his own homestead, for which, it is said, he made payment by chopping and clearing on the Rogers farm. His deed of this tract, one hundred acres, was from Colonel Rogers, drawn in the old English form under "the statute for transferring uses into possession" and bears date February 23, 1796, though the acknowledgment thereon is shown to have been made by Rogers, at Manchester, Vt., as late as March 1, 1787, and the deed was filed for record January 8, 1788.

It is not possible to definitely locate the boundaries of this plot from the description in the conveyance, which begins "at a stake and stones standing in an alder swamp which is the northeast corner of Captain Edward Aiken's Mill farm," thence running in various courses to "John Dick's southwest corner," one course being along Dick's westerly line.

No record of any conveyance to or from Dick is to be found, nor anything to show that such party ever resided in town. William conveyed to Edward Cox the westerly half (fifty acres) of this tract by deed of Dec. 24, 1784, beginning his boundary thereof at the southwest corner of the original parcel and giving courses and distances; later, Aug. 7, 1787, he con-

veyed to the same grantee fifty acres said, in the deed, to be the west half of the land bought of Rogers by William, beginning the boundary at the same southwest corner but stating the courses therefrom wholly different from those in the earlier deed. That the parties intended and understood that these two deeds would cover the entire one hundred acre parcel is quite evident as no other deed from William Cox of any part of that hundred acres is recorded, and Edward Cox conveyed fifty acres to Joshua Warner, April 15, 1791, describing the same as the west half of the land which he bought of William Cox.

After his sale of this original homestead he purchased another in town lying next that of his brother John. One hundred acres of this second homestead he conveyed some years later to his son, John Cox 2nd, the same to be so measured off the westerly part as to include the dwelling and other farm buildings, but reserving to himself and his wife, Sarah, rights as to occupancy of part of the dwelling, with further rights in "the seller, well and dooryard." The first homestead must have been near and northerly of the "Great Pond" and the later one, where William and his wife spent their later years, was somewhat farther east and in the most northerly part of the town. Here William died March 8, 1816; and Sarah, his wife, Feb. 9, 1837, the latter at the ripe age of ninety-four years.

John Cox, a younger brother of William, was also a member of the original Rogers party and he pitched a farm in the northeast part of the present Londonderry. He was one of the youngest, if not the youngest, of the party, being only nineteen years of age. There is no record of any conveyance of his farm prior to 1787, when he received a deed from the "Committee," though it is possible that he had previously had, from Rogers, some agreement which this deed was given to confirm. He died Aug. 9, 1829.

Captain Edward Aiken had his home farm a little farther east than were the two Cox farms last mentioned and it extended to the present east line of Londonderry. He also owned another tract, termed his "Mill farm," which was at the border of the "Great Pond" and included the site of the mill erected by him at the outlet of the pond near the present embankment or dam erected in later years to raise the level of the lake, when it took the name "Lowell Lake," as it is now known. This was the first mill in town and was both a saw mill and grist mill. It is not believed that Captain Aiken was one of the first party but that he came here one or two years later than they.

Deacon Edward Aiken, a cousin of Captain Edward, came at the same, or about the time as the Captain, tradition says in the summer of 1772, and took land for his homestead in that part of the old town which is now Windham, of later years known as the L. L. Howard farm. Here the Deacon spent the rest of his life. He was a man of ability and influence and none did more toward shaping the early growth and the civic life of Kent, and ancient



Londonderry, or represented the interests of the town more completely or guided them more wisely. Whether he ever had a conveyance of his farm, or contract for such, from Colonel Rogers is not known, but the earliest deed recorded showing his title came from the other two members of the "Committee" and bears date March 17, 1781.

He represented Kent in various meetings and conventions connected with the New York controversy and the activities leading up to the establishment of Vermont as an independent state; later representing Kent and ancient Londonderry, by successive elections, for many years in the State legislature. He was the first town clerk, holding that office for several years, and, much as we of later day appreciate his services as one of the most prominent fathers of the town, the fact that he failed and neglected to turn over to his successor the early records, known once to exist, both as to Land Records and proceedings in town meetings is and must ever remain a source of unavailing regret.

The tradition which gives credit to George McMurphy and Robert Montgomery as the two who first hewed out homes in town, locating them on the hill between the present villages, lacks support from any of the records. The first recorded deed to McMurphy bears date Oct. 22, 1782, from Silas Spaulding, and purports to convey a half interest in twenty-five acres and the grist mill at the "Great Pond."

In 1793 he received deed of land "in the easterly part" of Londonderry and in the description of its boundaries there is reference to the brook on which his "mill now stands." This brook was, apparently, the upper waters of the South Branch of Williams River.

In the summer of 1797 he took deed of a tract "on the west bank of West River," a part of the farm "originally owned by Hugh Montgomery and afterwards by Moses Grimes," which he sold to George Hewes in November, 1804, being substantially the present homestead of George M. Tuttle. Likewise all the records fail to afford evidence as to Robert Montgomery's having begun the clearing of the "Collins farm." In no deed on record does his name appear as grantor or grantee.

There were four bearing the name Montgomery among the very early residents, Robert, Henry, Hugh and Hugh, Jr.

Robert's name is mentioned in a deed dated Oct. 29, 1782, from the "Committee" to Hugh, of a tract in the westerly part of the town "where he now lives." The description begins on the east bank of West River, "being Robert Montgomery's southeast corner," thence running by definite courses to a stake and stones "on the west side of West River," and then northerly by the river to the place of beginning.

Henry had deed from the "Committee," Jan. 27, 1782, and the description therein covers the "Gibson Patch." This tract he conveyed to Abial

Eddy in December following and, as no record of other deeds to or from him appear, it is assumed that he removed from town.

Hugh, Jr. received deed on the same date, Jan. 27, 1782, from the "Committee" of ninety-three acres which he conveyed to Stephen Chaffe April 10, 1794 and which is marked on the town plot as "Chaffee."

These several deeds seem to locate the original homesteads of Robert and Hugh in the river valley on the westerly side of the stream, while Henry and Hugh, Jr. were on the hill upon the tracts marked respectively on the map or town plot as "Gibson Pitch" and "Chaffee."

Robert Miller was one of the early settlers, possibly, and even probably of the first party, and located on the Thompsonburg meadows, as later called. His brothers, John and Daniel, built their log houses upon the tract he had "pitched," as tradition says, though John took up land lying easterly and between Robert's home and the Patterson farm, which he later conveyed to Pratt Chase. Reference to deeds given by him indicate that at some time between March, 1790 and February, 1792 he removed to Westminster, Vt.

Daniel had land on the west side of West River, which he conveyed in 1790 to John Hasey and Hugh Montgomery and part of which is now included in the homestead farm of George M. Tuttle, but it is not possible now to say whether or not he ever resided on the tract. Shortly after the date of this deed to Hasey and Montgomery he removed to Manchester, Vt.

Robert conveyed his farm on the meadows to Samuel Thompson Mar. 23, 1782, two and a half years before the date of the "Committee's" deed conveying the same to him. It is said he, too, removed to Manchester, Vt.

That those named comprise all of the first or second party of settlers is not to be claimed, even as to those who were within the limits of the modern Londonderry, and there were many whose homes were made in the easterly part of the ancient town, now Windham. Among these were Deacon John Woodburn, James Anderson, Joseph Oughterson, Macks, McCormicks and others.

The frequent reference in the earliest recorded deeds to lines and corners evidently fixed and described in some earlier but unrecorded deeds, and now wholly unknown, warrants only the claim that the locations as given are approximately correct. Nor does a reference to the map or plot of the town make clearer the situation, as in many instances the few notations thereon indicating one time owners of certain tracts are found, by reference to existing records, to refer to those who owned them at dates long subsequent to the first settlement and clearing thereon, and indicating nothing as to the original occupants.

No public house or inn ever had existence in Kent; nor in Londonderry for many years after the change of name, and there was need of none.



Few travelled that way and those few, for the most part, were home-seekers who enjoyed the hospitality of earlier settlers until they could establish their own homes.

In February, 1799, the annual town meeting was warned, the same to be held at the house of Jonathan Aiken, "Inn Keeper," which is the earliest reference to an inn to be found in the records.

This "Inn" was located within a short distance of the present hotel in the village of Londonderry, standing on the higher ground a little farther back from the present main street. Jonathan Aiken sold the premises to John Miltimore that same year and in December, 1799, a town meeting was warned to be held at the same place, then "the house of John Miltimore, Inn Keeper." Substantially the same plot has, down to the present time, served as the site of a public house. Many different proprietors, more than can be named, have officiated as hosts to such as sought its hospitality, and no one is able to say how many different buildings devoted to such use have occupied the ground. In 1902, while managed by Alvarado C. Gibson, the hotel was totally destroyed by fire, but a new building was promptly constructed in its place and still stands, though not opened to the public for the full year, usually only for the summer or vacation months. At an early date, not now possible to actually determine, the "Huntley Stand" at the top of the mountain on the stage road to Chester was added, under the management of one Willard, to the list of old-time roadside taverns and for years enjoyed, under different owners, an enviable reputation and liberal patronage.

In the old stage-coach and teaming days, when this road formed an important part of one of the main lines of traffic from southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts across to the Hudson River, often as many as forty horses were there stabled in a single night while the house was well filled with guests. With the advent of railroads and resulting changes in methods and lines of transportation and travel it long ago lost its public character and became a private farm house, finally to be abandoned, and recently the buildings have been dismantled entirely.

For a time, while this road extended through that part of Londonderry now called the "Middle-of-the-Town," Arrington Gibson was licensed as an Inn Keeper and his inn was his farm house, still standing on what is known as the "Collins farm," and occupied by P. E. Fontaine.

The village of South Londonderry had its beginning in 1806, with the building of Baldwin & Richardson's mill on the site of the lately ruined village mills. After many years of slow growth the hamlet found need of a public house, and the first tavern was opened on the easterly side of the main street, its location being nearly, if not actually, upon the lot now occupied by the Riverside Inn.

In the early days the tavern and the village store were both sheltered by the same roof and, as in the North village, from that time on the same plot has been occupied as site for a public house, the present building having been erected in 1882, closely following the destruction of the old West River House by fire.

In 1843 a building was erected by Josiah Stowell in the "North village," designed for use as tavern and store. Its service as a tavern was comparatively brief but for a time its builder, "Colonel" Stowell, maintained its public character and, agreeable to the then usual custom, furnished both solid and liquid entertainment under its roof. Just when it lost its title to the term tavern cannot be definitely stated, but it was long and well known as "the Arnold Store" and was used as a store, without much modification of interior arrangement of rooms and partitions, until 1898, when the building was razed to make way for the present dwelling and the store building of Fred M. Leonard.

In 1880 George H. Hilton, then a resident of Chester, erected buildings at the "Great Pond," or "'Derry Pond," as popularly known, for the accommodation of summer guests, designing to make the place a summer resort.

This beautiful sheet of water was then christened "Lowell Lake," taking its name from Dr. Abraham Lowell, Mrs. Hilton's father, who, at his decease, owned the farm at the outlet of the lake. From that time on the place has been kept open in the summer season and is now owned and managed by D. H. Hilton, son of the founder.

In 1908 Walter L. Hunt enlarged his dwelling house on the westerly side of Main Street in South Londonderry village and opened the enlarged building as "Hunt's Tavern." It maintained its character of a public house under different managers until its destruction by fire in September, 1920.

Since that happening some private houses in the village have been opened by their owners for accommodation of transients, and there have been, in the recent years several farmhouses opened as summer boarding places, and these have received liberal patronage from city dwellers who appreciate the country quiet and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding territory which, year by year, attracts a larger number.



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## Church History

THE ancestors of our early settlers, for the most part, were Scotch Presbyterians, followers of John Knox, and transmitted to their immediate posterity, together with their physical strength and hardihood, a strong degree of belief in and adherence to the rigid doctrines of that stern faith.

These doctrines and this faith came, then, with the first settlers into these forests and the first,— and for a long time the only —, organized or combined effort to establish public religious observances here was put forth by those who adhered to these tenets.

At that time it seemed to be deemed a part of the duty of the town in its corporate capacity to provide for orthodox preaching as much as it is today to support public schools and to maintain highways.

While these Presbyterians and their fathers had been driven from Scotland to the north of Ireland, and thence to the new world, by their desire to escape the burdens laid on them by English laws as to the support of the there established church they still recognized, in great measure at least, a union between church and state which was evidently in their view the necessary and proper condition and relation so long as the state or body politic supported a church given to their own peculiar doctrines.

At an early date after their homes were set up in this new township movements began for the location and building of a Meeting House, though long years were destined to elapse before any building was dedicated to such service. Much of this delay was doubtless fairly attributable to the comparative poverty of the people; the continuance of the Revolutionary War, with its consequent drain of their slender resources, and the unsettled condition of affairs in town particularly; yet a careful study of the old records leads to the belief that much of the delay might be truly charged to the common frailty of human nature in its inability to bend individual wills to a common agreement as to locating the proposed building.

At one of the earliest town meetings of which we have any record, March 11, 1777, it was voted "to build a house for Publick Worship" and Edward Aiken (probably Deacon Edward), David Cochran and William Mack were chosen as a committee "to fix on the Place where it shall stand."

Precisely what was done by this committee is not known but, from the fact that for many years later there were frequent references to locating

such a building, it is certain that nothing tangible resulted from their action. Tradition, indeed, says that at some time not far from this date and while the Revolution was in progress a site was selected and some materials actually secured for the erection of the building, but that the necessity of using all their available strength to bear their part of the burdens of that war prevented the use of those materials for the original purpose. The depreciation of the currency left them, in common with all the rest of the country, in straitened circumstances financially so that the best they were able to do was to raise limited sums to pay for preaching in private houses.

Most of the first or earliest settlers of Kent were members of the Presbyterian Church of Londonderry, N. H., and that church long looked upon them as a colony and gave some assistance by occasionally supplying them with preaching. About the time the people acquired sufficient financial strength to enable them to erect their meeting house the division of the town, which had then become Londonderry, was under consideration and the agitation of this subject put a stop to all plans for church building.

Previous to this, March 19, 1781, the town in a regularly organized town meeting had voted unanimously that the place for building the "House for Publick Worship" be north of the Grist Mill on Captain Edward Aiken's land, he giving two acres of land for a site. At the same meeting, the record shows that this vote was "reconsidered," and the matter left as before.

On the 20th of the following September, at a meeting which was warned on the 5th of that month, it was voted to build the house, the same to be built "west of Mr. James Patterson's Dwelling house," and a half acre was to be given by Mr. Patterson for the purpose.

But, like former plans, this failed of being carried out, though the meeting adjourned to Nov. 5th, when it was voted that the house be "38 feet in Length and Thirty in Breadth," and the meeting again adjourned, to Nov. 12th, and then it was decided that the house be "one Storie high"; that it be set up and finished in one year from that date, and a committee of five was appointed to carry on the work, which committee was instructed to make an estimate of the cost of the building and to "make a Rate of s'd Cost upon the Inhabitation of s'd Town," and it was then voted that this cost be "Laid on ye Inhabitation of s'd Town by Poll and Estate."

Just why this committee failed to erect the building so provided for is unknown, but in the next year a town meeting was called to see what the town would do in regard to levying tax on non-residents' lands for the purpose of building "houses for Public Worship," school houses and bridges. The use of the plural in referring to this subject is significant and may serve to explain some of the delays and failures in providing a meeting house. It is also one of the first indications of that feeling which later resulted in the division of the town.



A tax of two pence per acre was laid on all the "Non resident Land" at this meeting, April 23, 1782, and at the annual town meeting in 1783 a committee was chosen "to improve to the Best Advantage" this tax, but nothing further appears concerning the matter, not even the names of the committee. This same year, 1783, the record shows that instead of voting to raise money for procuring preaching by tax they voted to raise it by subscription, "them that subscribe to give their Note for what they Subscribe to the Selectmen."

Upon the division of the town, in 1795, all of the deacons of the church and the majority of its members were on the Windham side of the division line. Just when these people formed an organized church is not certain but it was at some very early date after the first families located in town. After the division of the town those members who lived on the Londonderry side still maintained their connection with the original body as they were too feeble to form a new organization by themselves.

In 1799, December 6, in a regularly organized town meeting, in Londonderry, it was voted "that a certain Spot of ground situated in the Road leading from Ebenezer Cobb's to Joseph Oughterson's and on the loine between said Cobbs and Oughtersons farms be the center of said town for the purpose of building a meeting hous; then Voted to build a meeting hous and Defray the Expence by a tax on the Rateble poles and Estates to be assessed on the grand list of 1799." No building was erected in compliance with this vote but the reason for the failure to build is not now to be ascertained. Again, on the 20th of the following month, at a special town meeting warned to see about building a meeting house, it was voted to build the house and raise a tax for the cost thereof. At this time a description of the location and of the building to be so erected was decided upon. It was to be erected "on a Certain Spot of ground Situated in Joseph Oughterson's New field, so-called," and to "Nearly the sizse of the meeting hous ocipied By Mr. Lalon (Reverend Aaron Leland) in Chester."

This building in Chester so referred to was built in 1788 and 40 x 50 feet in dimensions. To meet the expense of constructing this proposed building, it was voted at this meeting to raise four hundred dollars, to be assessed on the list of polls and estates for the year 1799, which was to be collected and paid into the treasury of "said sosity" on or before the first day of the then next November, "in the following articles, to wit: in hard money or good Beef Cattle, good flax, Butter, Black Salts of Lye, good wheat, Rye, Corn and Sheaps Wool."

This meeting then adjourned to the 26th of March following when the spirit of the meeting may be conjectured from the first act recorded, viz: "Voted to dismiss David Cochran as moderator of said meeting & then chose John Wakefield moderator in his room." Then they adjourned to the first Monday in the next November, at which time they voted to reconsider the vote of January 20, 1800, "for Building the Meeting in Mr. Oughterson's

Burnt field so called and then voted to Build said hous on a Certain Spot of ground Situated on the South part of Ebenezer Cobb Land."

At the same time they reconsidered the vote laying the tax on the list of 1799 and provided that it be assessed on the list of 1800, and half to be paid into the society's treasury on the first day of January, 1801, and the other half one year later. Thereupon the meeting was adjourned to the first Wednesday of the next month, when it was again adjourned to the first Monday in January, 1801. Nothing further appears on the records relative to this meeting, but it may well be assumed that at last the whole matter was "reconsidered," for no building was ever erected under the authority of these votes so recorded.

About 1805 a school house was built in "the Center District" to the cost of which some of the church members personally contributed that they might have the privilege of holding meetings there on Sundays; and from that time until the church building was in fact erected they continued to hold services there. This school house was also, in fact if not in name, the town house or town hall for, on the 21st of June, 1806, it was voted to hold the town meetings therein, as was done until the fall of 1817, a vote having been taken at the annual town meeting in March, 1817, to hold the town meetings in the Meeting House. The location of this school house, the first church home and first town house of Londonderry, was on the hill nearly opposite the brick house long known as the Doctor Gibson place, now owned by Robert Batstone, but a little farther west than the present highway, where the original highway was constructed and long used.

All this time the Church was still of the Presbyterian persuasion, but about 1809, finding it a matter of difficulty to procure such denominational preaching, it was decided to adopt the Congregational form of church government, and in that year, August 25, 1809, a Congregational Church was organized by Reverend Rufus Cushman, of Fair Haven, assisted by Reverend William Hall, of Grafton. This church, as first established, consisted of fourteen members: David Cochran, John Cox, John Cochran, Arrington Gibson, David Cochran, Jr., Mary Cochran, Mary Cox, Lois Hunting, Mary Gibson, Betsey Cochran, Susanna Richardson, Mary Thompson, Rebecca Davis and Sally Wright. Several of the Presbyterians, who objected to the Congregational form, did not at this time unite with them, though they did so at a later date. The field was for a time considered missionary ground and the church was from time to time supplied by home missionaries.

Among those who ministered to the church and people in the succeeding years we have the names of Reverend David H. Williston, Reverend Rufus Cushman, Reverend Moses Parmalee, Reverend Isaac P. Lowe, Reverend Urban Hitchcock and Reverend John Lawton; and there were others whose



names we cannot now state. Some of these were supported in part by missionary societies and others wholly by the town's people.

The question of location and erection of a church building or "meeting house" was at no time lost sight of or allowed any considerable period of rest. From a reservation made in an old deed which conveyed the farm next east of the "Captain James Place," east of Thompsonburg, it would seem that at that time there was a prospect that the meeting house would be located on that farm, though the reservation of a tract to be dedicated to that purpose may have been designed by the grantor as a make-weight in favor of the location where he and his faction most desired it to be. This reservation is contained in a deed from James Magarr and wife to Benjamin Willard Howe under date June 10, 1811, and is in these words: "Reserving one acre of land for setting a Meeting House." This tract so reserved was never more definitely described than in the words of the reservation quoted and in subsequent conveyances of the farm, for quite a period, the same or a similar clause is contained.

In later deeds of the same premises the reservation disappears. No such building was ever constructed in that locality, the house, when it was at last built, being situated about two miles farther to the west.

In 1813 the long desired building was at last completed and stood at the "Middle-of-the-Town," on the northerly side of the highway leading easterly from the "hill road" between the present two villages in town. It stood back from the road so that a considerable green lay in front of it, and this green, with the adjoining fields and highways, in the following years witnessed many a gathering of the voters intent upon political affairs and many a martial array on the old training days, as well as the gathering of the devout for religious services. Town meetings were held in this building from September, 1817 until 1860, when a town hall was erected in the village of South Londonderry.

From 1813 forward for many years the church held preaching services in this building, not without some interruptions but ever more or less during each year. The greatest prosperity of this church was under the pastorate of Reverend Philetus Clark who began his labors with them in 1824, was installed as pastor in 1827 and continued his ministrations until 1830, when he removed, though not formally dismissed until 1833. At this time the church had about one hundred communicants. For several years after Pastor Clark's departure the church was without a regular pastor until Nov. 21, 1838 when Reverend Linus Owen was installed and held the pastorate until his dismissal, Feb. 28, 1844.

From this time the church, as an organized religious body, seemed to steadily decline in numbers and its comparative influence among the people. Reverend John Walker preached here in 1855-6; Reverend Linus Owen again from 1859 to 1865, and Reverend John H. Thyng, 1866-8. This was

the last regular Congregational preaching at the South village. The old church building at the "Middle-of-the-town" had before this date been abandoned as a place of worship, and was taken down in 1865.

The losses sustained, by death and removal of members, were not made good in number by new accessions; other denominations had entered the field and established places of worship in the villages where the younger portion of the community, not to say many of the older ones, seemed to prefer to attend services, and thus the old church became gradually weaker and weaker until at last its organization was lost.

Before this last event, however, the church by the advice, as it is said, of Reverend Justin Parsons, united with the Methodists of South Londonderry and built a union meeting house at that village in which each of the two societies supplied the pulpit for one half the time.

This was done in 1852, the house being dedicated in December of that year, and from that time on very few were the admissions to the older church.

In April, 1874, the Methodist Society acquired full title to the union meeting house mentioned, by purchase of the Congregational interest therein, and the old church became practically a thing of the past.

The Baptist Church in Londonderry had its origin in the neighboring town of Peru where a church was organized October 27, 1809 with a membership of eight persons. February 20, 1811, this Peru church, which had increased by conversions and admissions from sister churches to several times its original number, with thirteen persons who were dismissed from the Baptist Church in Windham, became, by advice of a council, "The First Baptist Church in Londonderry." On the 9th of the following month was held the first business meeting of this body of which we have record.

At this meeting Elder Gershom Lane was chosen Moderator; Levi Baldwin, Clerk; Jesse Baldwin and Abial Richardson, Deacons.

On the 29th of the same month (March, 1811) it was voted to give Elder Lane fifty-two dollars for preaching three-fourths of the time "from the first of January last to the first of January next."

Small as this salary was it was "to be paid in produce or wearing apparel," and Elder Lane agreed to accept it.

The next August the church voted to join the Woodstock Association at their meeting that then coming fall, and this connection still exists.

The next year a like sum of fifty-two dollars was voted to Elder Lane for preaching and, in December, 1812, twenty-seven dollars was subscribed, by twenty persons, to pay Elder Thomas Baker for his services one fourth of the time and this was "to be paid in produce one year from date."

Small as these sums were, doubtless it was all that the society could raise and seems to have been sufficient to enable them to secure more or less regu-



lar continuance of ministrations of various pastors in their own doctrine for several years while they had no stated place of worship owned by the society. In 1815 Elder Lane and five others were dismissed from this church to the Weston Baptist Church, then constituted.

Previous to this date they had felt called upon to discipline certain members; in the first or second year they excluded two members for open communion views and practices, and, in 1813, four brethren who had joined a secret organization, "The Washington Benevolent Society," were excluded because they persisted in continuing in that society "to the grief of some of their brethren." This action was taken by a bare majority of one vote in the council and a little over four years later the church seems to have repented of this action for they then voted that they had done wrong in excluding those members. Still later the former feeling appears to have again been in the ascendancy for this last mentioned vote is crossed upon the record by the word "reconsidered," but as to the time this reconsideration took place there is no statement.

In 1817 the Center school house was selected as the stated place of holding their services. This was the same place formerly occupied by the old Presbyterian church, and its successor Congregational society, which now had a meeting house near by for its own use.

Complete harmony and agreements in fixing on this place did not exist in the church and it is certain that it did not remain a settled question for a great period. The various opinions as to the place for holding their regular services evidently became so earnestly advocated or so vigorously pressed that it threatened serious difficulty for, in January, 1825, a council, called for that purpose, decided that it was best to have but one place of worship, and again the Center school house was designated as such place. Following this came certain propositions or suggestions for dividing the church into two parts, the east and west branches, but such division was not made. The feeling among the members was so strong and carried so far that for a considerable time there was no observance of the communion service or sacrament because of these differences of opinion as to the place of worship. Happily, in the fall of 1827, more of the true Christian spirit seemed to have pervaded the membership and the brethren came together at the Thompsonburg school house and this meeting proved the beginning of a most prosperous era in the life of the church.

Most, if not all, of the time from this date to the dedication of the brick church building in the village of South Londonderry the meetings for public worship were divided between the school houses in the two villages and the Thompsonburg district.

In June, 1834, the society dedicated the building, which still stands and is regularly used for religious services, situated on the hill at the northerly end of the South village. From the dedication of this building for a period



of several years a good degree of prosperity seemed to attend the society, but dissensions arose and soon assumed most serious proportions. Finally these difficulties caused a complete disruption and in 1845 a formal separation of the two factions or parties took place, they being known respectively as the northern and the southern brethren.

The "southern brethren" continued to occupy the brick church, under Reverend Sem Pierce as their pastor, while the "northern brethren" met for a time in the school houses at the south village and at the Center of the town, and also in the old church at the Middle-of-the-town.

In 1847 they erected a frame building at the lower part of the village, (South Londonderry), then termed "The Patch," about where the dwelling of Hallie A. Thompson now stands. This was dedicated in October, 1847 and while it was used as a place of worship Reverend Luke Sherwin and Reverend Russel Wheeler served as pastors. For nine years this separation continued in spite of various vigorous efforts, by no means confined to the membership of the two factions, to effect a union.

In 1854 a union was effected and the reunited church resumed its worship in the brick meeting house. The frame building on "the Patch" was sold and later moved across the highway and became a part of the old carriage shop still standing. In January, 1856, the brick house, having been repaired, was rededicated and the church continued to prosper.

Again, in 1880, the building was thoroughly repaired, a frame addition for use as a vestry made, and a service of rededication held September 21, 1880.

The names of the several pastors who have served this church from its organization to the present time (1927) are here given in the order of their service, but it is impossible to state the precise term of such service in several cases:

1. GERSHOM LANE
2. SETH EWER
3. DAVID SWEET
4. SEM PIERCE
5. RUFUS SMITH
6. LUKE SHERWIN
7. RUSSELL WHEELER
8. I. C. CARPENTER
9. J. P. HUNTINGTON
10. CHARLES COON
11. JOHN S. GOODALL
12. RICHARD NOTT
13. JOHN S. GOODALL, second pastorate
14. L. W. WHEELER



15. HALSEY C. LEAVITT
16. OLIVER P. FULLER
17. NEWELL A. WOOD
18. WILBUR T. RICE
19. FRED E. COBURN
20. RALPH H. TIBBALD
21. WARREN C. GOODWIN
22. F. KENDRICK HACKETT
23. EDWARD E. ENO
24. CHARLES O. DUNHAM

It is highly probable that prior to 1831 some of the earlier circuit-riders of the Methodists had visited the Londonderry field, and if they did so it is certain that services under their ministrations were held within the town for those men moved from place to place for that very purpose, taking advantage of every opportunity to preach or exhort and making opportunities where none were otherwise afforded.

No accurate or definite knowledge on this score, however, exists, but in 1831 one Allen, a local Methodist preacher, said to have hailed from Winhall, preached at the "Block School house," which was located in the south-westerly part of the town. So far as exact knowledge of the facts go, this was the beginning of Methodism in town.

Following Allen came Sanderson and Wells who also preached at this same place, as well as in some of the neighboring towns.

During the next four or five years there was preaching service at irregular intervals and such services were held in various places, at school houses and in private homes, for this society then had no definite abiding place in the town or vicinity.

The "Londonderry Circuit" in those early days included also the towns of Landgrove, Peru, Windham, Winhall and Weston, and for many years the preachers on this circuit were two in number and had charge of the denominational interests in all these towns. At this time and down to 1845 this territory was within the jurisdiction of the New Hampshire Conference. In 1840 the house of worship at the north village was erected and then for the first time Methodism had a home among our people wherein to hold regular public services.

The deed of the land for a site was given by Niles Aldrich to the Stewards of the M. E. Church on the Londonderry Circuit, December 26, 1840, and describes the plot as that, duly bounded, "on which the meeting-house now stands."

About 1843 the harmony of this society was disturbed by serious differences among the members.



At this time E. Hutchinson and M. R. Herrick were the preachers and, after preaching a few months, Herrick, who was the later comer of the two, departed. Hutchinson left the Methodists, joining the Wesleyans, and the field was for a time left vacant, until Moses Adams and Lorenzo Pettengill came to the work of undoing the evil results of the preceding strife and bitter feeling. Their efforts met with much success and the work went on with increasing prosperity.

From the establishment of the Vermont Conference, in 1845, to 1850 two men were kept constantly upon this circuit but, in the latter year, only one, Reverend Z. S. Haynes, was sent here. In 1852 the Methodists joined with the Congregationalists in erecting the frame building in the South village and made use of it for public worship for many years. The pulpit in this "Union House," for several succeeding years, was supplied by each of these denominations, as a rule, for one half the time respectively, but with some interruptions.

During several years following 1852 the Methodist Conference sent different men to the north and south churches in town, each having additional territory within his charge, but in some of them the same pastor supplied both churches. In 1869 the church building at the North village was purchased by the Second Congregational Society and the Methodist strength centered at the South village. February 29, 1872, the Stewards of the M. E. Church quit-claimed the interest of their denomination in the Union House at the South village and the title stood in the Congregational Society for about two years. This was the old, or First Congregational Society, which was so far brought back to life as to thus hold the title, though no pretense was made of its holding or controlling the regular religious services therein; and the title was so held until, in 1874, the same was conveyed to the Stewards of the M. E. Church, who made repairs and alterations to the building in 1887 and again in 1900. They maintained regular services there until 1920, since which time no such services have been held.

The "Second Congregational Church of Londonderry" was organized August 19, 1868 by a Council composed of the ministers of ten Congregational churches and nine lay delegates, and at that time numbered twelve members. The next year a parsonage was erected at the North village and the church building there purchased of the Stewards of the Methodist church. The parsonage was destroyed by fire in 1915 and rebuilt in the following year. This church has never been strong in numbers and has had, from time to time, assistance from funds of the Home, or State, Missionary Society of its denomination. It has not sustained preaching services continuously but has kept its life and organization, and of late years seemed to gain somewhat in strength. In the past few years, and at the present (1927) it has



united with the church in Peru in the employment of a pastor who serves both parishes.

This brief sketch is believed to cover, in the main, the history of all the evangelical churches that have existed in the present town of Londonderry since its earliest settlement.

In 1901 some adherents of the Universalist belief purchased a lot in the North village with dwelling house thereon and remodelled the house, making additions to it, and transformed it into a small but very neat and pretty chapel in which intermittent services have since been held. Such services have been, almost entirely, conducted by students for the ministry in that denomination and by those taking their vacations in the vicinity.

Contemplation of the early churches and their activities invites and almost compels a comparison with conditions in these later days, and we find nothing more marked than the change in church-going habits.

On hard benches or in uncomfortable, straight backed pews our grand-sires were wont to sit out two discourses on a Sunday, each double the length of a modern sermon, with serenity and real or well feigned satisfaction, while our grandmothers sought, often with most indifferent success, to mitigate the wintry chill of the unheated, stoveless edifice by means of their little individual "foot warmers" charged with a tray full of coals, and the children, in uneasy endurance, awaited the time for the benediction.

Were those conditions revived, to what point would the present scanty congregations shrink and how vain would seem the effort to now fill the pews. In these country districts more attractive churches and more convenient audience rooms, fitted and furnished with restful and comfort-inducing seats, have signally failed to attract or to hold the attendance of the majority and the worshipping congregations have grown fewer and fewer in number. The teams such as once came well laden to the church door are now rarely seen, and the more pretentious automobile fails to make good the number brought thither on days of service.

The old rows of sheds adjacent, erected to shelter the horses and vehicles of worshippers, are going, or have gone, to decay and have been in their later days, for the most part, utilized for purposes wholly foreign to the service for which they were designed. Times, manners and customs have changed greatly, and these conditions are but manifestations of the change.

It may be, as is often said, that real, true worship is no less sincere though evidenced in other ways than then; and a gloomy pessimist must he be who asserts that the world, or its people as a whole, are growing worse rather than better morally. The real spirit may grow and strengthen though man-made creeds have lessened force.

Outside the religious aspect of the situation, however, this growing tendency toward non-attendance of public worship, with the weekly mingling of families once common at the Sunday services, had a social value and

influence and its decadence is regrettable for its place is not wholly filled by other gatherings founded on later customs or usages.

As far back as the original grant of Kent some provision had been made toward providing a home for the pastor who should minister to the people of the town then yet to be settled and later, under the Vermont Charter of Londonderry in 1780, similar provision was made in the reservation of land for "the first settled minister," as well as for other public purposes; but the minister's lot, though later set out and definitely located, was not at any time used as a parsonage lot or personally occupied by the minister.

The first parsonage lot in town was a sixty-five acre farm conveyed to the First Congregational Society by Damaris Gibson, April 1, 1836.

Some question arising as to the validity of the title so conveyed, a second deed of the same tract was executed to the Society, by Lyman Whitman, March 5, 1846. This land lies about one-half mile easterly of the site of the old, or first meeting house and was long known, in later years, as "the Ben. Reed farm." This property, or that part of it on which stood the buildings was disposed of by the Society March 14, 1862, the other portion having been sold off about eleven years previously.

On the same day, March 14, 1862, Benjamin Reed, to whom this old parsonage was conveyed, in turn conveyed to "Lyman Whitman, Agent, and the members of the First Congregational Society of Londonderry" half of a house in the village of South Londonderry, designating in the deed the several rooms in the house which were conveyed and covering "an undivided half" of the other buildings connected therewith and the lot whereon they stood.

This was used as a parsonage by the Society, named so long as the services of a pastor were retained and later, in 1883, was sold and conveyed by agents of the Society. This act seems to have been the last evidence of any degree of vitality in the old Society.

A little more than a year after the Methodists received the deed of the lot on which stood their church building at the North village, Niles Aldrich and Abel Johnson conveyed to the Stewards of that church a parsonage lot "with buildings thereon standing." The date of this deed was August 29, 1842 and the premises so conveyed were those lying next westerly of the meeting house, containing one half acre, later known as the "Clarissa Wyman place" and owned by Ella M. Payne at the time of her decease.

In 1866 the Stewards of the church sold this parsonage lot to J. W. Marsh. In 1860 the First Baptist Society purchased a lot on the northerly limit of the village of South Londonderry and erected the parsonage buildings which have continued to be occupied ever since by the several pastors serving that society.



In 1868 the Methodist Society built their parsonage, which was made ready for occupancy in January, 1869. The lot had been purchased some time previously and was immediately opposite the parsonage of the Baptist Society at the north end of the village.

After the Baptist and Methodists united in their regular weekly services on Sundays, and in support of such exercises this last named parsonage was sold to Frank L. Darling.

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## Schools

NOTWITHSTANDING the provisions made for aid in the maintenance of schools in town, both in the charter of Kent and, later, in that of Londonderry, it was a matter of long years before any material assistance was afforded by those lands reserved for that purpose in the later charter; and none whatever at any time came from those set out in the charter of Kent. Our knowledge of the earliest, and of the early, schools in town is obscured by the haze of long past years and lack of records.

Even tradition offers but little beyond the statement that the first school was taught by one Doctor Lazelle and its sessions held in the dwelling houses of David Cochran, Joseph Oughterson and Hugh Montgomery. As to when it began, how long continued, the number of pupils attending and the means or manner of supporting it tradition itself is silent; but declares that the first school house was built, at an early, undetermined date, in the vicinity of "the Great Pond" (now Lowell Lake), and that it stood until about 1814 when it was destroyed by fire, and was rebuilt within what was later known as District No. 5.

Some time later, but at a date not now to be determined, another school house was built near the height of land between the present two villages. This stood upon the road which then passed over the hill a little farther to the west than the present highway and nearly opposite the Dr. John Gibson brick house, now owned by Robert Batstone.

In 1804, the road having been changed to its present location, Stephen Chaffee conveyed to the town a parcel of land extending westerly from the "new road" to the old school house grounds, but very soon after this the building was moved to the site of what was long known as the "Middle-of-the-town" school house (No. 4), half a mile to the south of the old grounds.

At a town meeting in March, 1797, a committee was chosen "to Devide the town into Destricts for Schools." No action by such committee is recorded and the next reference to the subject appears in the warning for the annual town meeting in 1801 which contained an article: "to see what the town will do about dividing into School Districts as the law directs." At that meeting four School districts were, by vote of the town, set out and described by somewhat indefinite bounds and, in June following at a special meeting called for that purpose, it was voted to set off "Joseph Allen, John Wakefield, Ebenezer Wakefield and Joseph Allen Junior, into a School District by themselves," but imposed a condition that they should pay their



just proportion then already voted "in the District to which they now belong" for the purpose of building a school house "in sd District, & for schooling the present summer."

At the then next annual meeting, March, 1802, it was voted to set off a District called the Center District, which was to include "all the Inhabitants south of West River not heretofore set off into other districts."

The modification of the several Districts and constituting additional ones went on for considerable time, but no one now, nor even then as it would seem, could tell from the records just what territory was included in them severally. Most of the descriptions profess to contain no boundaries of specific territory but merely set certain individuals from one District to another. In several years the town, in annual meetings, voted school taxes and, in some instances, chose School District officers.

The first record of a school tax on polls and estate is in the proceedings of the annual meeting in March, 1804, when a tax of two cents on the dollar on the list of 1803 was voted, to be paid in hard money.

In March, 1809, a like tax of two cents on the dollar was voted, "payable in wheat, Rye, Corn, flax, flax seed, wool, oats, Butter, Cheese."

A census of the scholars between four and eighteen years of age was filed that same month showing the following numbers:

<i>1st</i>	School District,	50
<i>3d</i>	School District,	28
<i>6th</i>	School District,	10
<i>2nd</i>	School District,	38
<i>North</i>	School District,	16
<i>Center</i>	School District,	41
<i>Fifth</i>	School District,	50
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At the time the legislature abolished the old District System and established the "Town System" there were thirteen Districts in town and two "Fractional Districts," the latter being a small territory annexed to No. 5 in Winhall ("Winhall Hollow") and a little larger tract annexed to No. 1 in Weston ("Weston Island").

As a result of the legislation referred to the entire town now forms one "Town School District" and all the schools are under control of the Board of School Directors. Of the school houses formerly occupied by the old School Districts only five remain in the ownership of the Town District; all the others having been disposed of and many of them torn down. One of the five is that locally known as the "Block School House," so termed from the manner of constructing the original house, the walls of which were built up by placing large, squared timbers one upon another, like blocks, until the desired height was reached. This old building was removed some years be-

fore the old District was legislated out of existence and replaced by a substantial frame building not now regularly used for school purposes.

At the session of the State Legislature in 1852 "The Londonderry Academy" was incorporated and on the 5th of the following February was duly organized under the provisions of its charter. Niles Aldrich was elected President; Barnet Wait, Vice-President; David Arnold, Clerk, and David O. Gale, Treasurer. This corporation had existence by grace of the power of the legislature but never had either building, building site or endowment. By virtue of the corporate name the District school house in the village of Londonderry was dubbed "The Academy" and the officers arranged, for a few years, to secure a teacher "to teach and manage" the school each fall; the teacher's compensation depending upon tuition fees collected from his pupils. In fact being nothing more, save in name, than the "select school" at that period common in the different towns round about. The year following the organization nothing was done,—not even the annual meeting held,—but in 1855, 1856 and 1857 meetings were held and, in each of those years, it was voted "to have a school in the autumn." These facts all appear from the Clerk's records, still preserved, and here they end.

The West River Academy, "to be located in the south village of Londonderry," was chartered by the legislature in 1853. That this action was secured merely and really in the interest of education is hardly credited, but it seems rather to have had its origin in the rivalry between the two villages which long existed to the detriment of the best interests of the town at large, but now, happily, well worn away.

No record of any organization under this charter can be discovered nor, in truth, is it certain that there ever was a formal organization.

Like the "Londonderry Academy" this corporation exerted its activities, so far as there was any activity, without endowment, abiding place or visible means of support. As a rule it was only once in two years that there were slight evidences of its life, alternating with like biennial exhibitions of vitality in the other village. On such occasions some teacher, usually a college student, was secured to conduct a fall term but practically all that the institution could offer him as an inducement was permission to use the name of "West River Academy" in advertising his school and occupancy of the village school house for its sessions.

The NAME was practically all that ever had real existence in either of these institutions and none could note their transition from life to death, so slight was the change.

The common, or District, schools measure the full extent of educational opportunities within the town beyond what is already stated until the establishment of a High School at the South village by vote of the town in March, 1911, "to instruct the School Directors to provide a two-years course of higher instruction in town."



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# Mills and Manufacturing Establishments

THE manufacturing establishments that have existed in the town are more imposing in point of number than in the extent of business done, and the sites of comparatively few of them are now occupied.

The natural centralization of business in the villages is, in part, an explanation of this and the fact that most of the earlier mills were situated on a small stream which failed to furnish a sufficient volume of water to do the business when the stream shrunk, on the clearing of the lands and the business increased in amount, doubtless had equal force in producing this result. These various establishments will be considered as separate groups distinguished from each other by the streams upon which they were situated rather than by reference to the dates of their erection.

The first mill in town was built by Captain Edward Aiken in 1774 at the outlet of "The Great Pond," now known as Lowell Lake, and was fitted up as a saw mill and grist mill, capable at best of barely furnishing means for grinding the grain for family use and supplying coarse lumber for building purposes. But little occasion or demand for such lumber existed for many years as the houses were nearly all primitive log structures.

One of the old traditions is that, when the first mill was built by Captain Aiken his cousin, Deacon Edward Aiken, had an interest in the mill and that they there sawed out lumber for a frame house for each of themselves which, being piled up in the mill yard, was lost in a fire which consumed both mill and lumber. The date of this occurrence is fixed as previous to 1776.

The mill was promptly rebuilt and for a long time was the only mill in town. It is said that, in 1776, Colonel Rogers built a two-story frame dwelling on his home farm, once known as the "Larkin Place."

This may have been the first frame raised in town though it is uncertain whether this or a frame house on the farm formerly called the Brooks Place and lying westerly from the main "hill road" between the villages was the first put up. One of these was, doubtless, the first frame house in Kent and neither could claim any great priority in point of time over the other.

The timber for these houses was, undoubtedly, sawn at the Captain Aiken mill. This mill, and the land about it, passed through many different proprietors during the next twenty-five years, among other owners being George

McMurphy, who once owned an undivided half of it, John Jacobs, Samuel Thomson, Andrew Morrison, Captain Warner and Daniel, his son.

From the father and son last named the lake took the name of Warner's Pond by which it was long known and by which it is designated in some old deeds. It was Daniel Warner who first stocked the pond with pickerel.

Going to New Hampshire for them, he procured about eighty which he put into those waters from which quantities reaching even to tons have since been taken. Other buildings were put up in place of the original structure, or rather in its immediate vicinity, to replace it; for in a deed as early as Oct. 11, 1793 the description of the land conveyed, covering the then existing mill, reference is made to the "old saw mill," even then a ruin.

A few rods below this site once stood a building containing machinery for carding wool and dressing cloth, but the date of its erection as well as other details concerning it are now in obscurity.

In fact so many different mills or buildings have stood upon this stream in the first fifty rods of its course that it is well nigh impossible, from the records, aided by tradition and the recollections of the oldest inhabitants, to describe any one of them with a satisfactory degree of certainty, but they must have been cheaply built and therefore short lived.

At, or very near, the point where the stream is first crossed by the highway below the lake was once a small shop occupied by one Jotham Cram who, it is said, built it not far from 1800 and who there made some iron castings and forgings in a small way. There is no evidence in the records of his ever having had title to any land in that vicinity nor any reference in any records to the existence of a shop there, but a part of it was still in existence when the saw mill built by Castanus B. Park was raised.

This saw mill last mentioned was later, as it is said, moved a little farther down the stream to the place where it now stands, in ruin, and where it has stood since about 1875.

Some forty rods farther down the stream, and after it has turned from a westerly to a southerly course, are the remains of an old log dam and the foundation walls of a building on the left bank of the brook. Practically no definite information as to who built it or at what date it was done can be obtained. The oldest inhabitants can tell nothing about it, save one who reports that he heard it talked about in his boyhood and understands it never did much, if any, business and that it burned or was, in some way, destroyed prior to 1800.

July 9, 1793 Andrew Morrison executed a deed to John Patterson wherein the property conveyed was described as "a saw mill standing on the brook that runs out of the grate pond known as Mill Brook." No further description is given of the mill or of the land whereon it stood.

This could not have been the mill up at the pond for Morrison took conveyance from Sam'l. Thompson ten days later (July 19, 1793), of a tract of



25 acres which included the upper mills, and held these premises until the October following when he conveyed the same to Joseph Pine.

It is probable that Morrison built this lower mill, and also that it stood on land then owned by Patterson, which would afford an explanation of the form of description used in the deed of Morrison to Patterson mentioned above. At some time prior to 1793 George McMurphy erected a mill at about the same place where the Buxton tannery was later built and the same was kept in operation until the dam at the outlet of the "Great Pond" gave way, when this mill, the dam and a quantity of sawn lumber piled near the mill were all swept away; the lumber for the most part lodging on the Thompson meadows. The date of this occurrence cannot be determined but, after the loss of this mill, McMurphy built a mill in that part of the town now Windham taking deed of its site together with additional land Oct. 1, 1793, after the erection of that new mill.

The first tannery, in the town was located a little north of the stage road about half a mile easterly from Thompsonburg, where ruins of the old dam as well as remnants of the foundations of the buildings can still be seen. Nathan Buxton, who went from this town to New Hampshire to learn the tanner's trade, here cleared a spot for his tannery and put up his building in 1824. The first building erected here by Mr. Buxton was 26 x 40 and two stories high, the upper part being designed as tenement for use of his family.

Just as Mr. Buxton had begun to tan his first leather there the building was destroyed by fire. The following summer, with the help of friends and neighbors, he rebuilt the tannery and then moved his family into the upper story. He began with only three vats and had to go to Andover to grind his bark, not then having equipment for that purpose at his own building.

Under these adverse circumstances and conditions he tanned the first leather and there also made the first harness ever made in town.

He lived in this building and operated the tannery for eleven years, when he became blind and was obliged to go out of business.

The tannery passed into other hands and was operated until 1866 or 1867 when it was abandoned. The main building, an old block structure, was taken down in 1885 by the then owner of the land and at that time all the other buildings had gone to decay.

Nearly opposite the dwelling house on the "Captain James farm," and on the right bank of the stream, David Thompson, about 1828, put up a building for John Calef and Lifus Eddy, designed for a wagon shop. No business in that line was ever done there, but some time later a part of it was occupied by wool carding machinery which Isaiah Hesselton had brought up from the Harrington shop near the mouth of the brook.

Hesselton here ran this machinery for some years and then removed it to Weston, Vt. The building was taken down in 1844 and used in constructing

a barn on the old Sam'l. Thompson farm, later known as the Josiah Goddard farm.

The old stone dam and high foundation walls just below the road and a few rods lower on the stream were built by David Thompson, who put up and operated a saw mill there for some years and until it was destroyed by fire. He rebuilt on the same site and the establishment was long known as the Thompson mill. Some years prior to his death in 1843 the mill passed into the control of his son Nathaniel and continued in use until burned, in 1858, at which time it had passed to other hands.

Still lower on the stream, and about where an old dam now remains, somewhere about 1821, William Buckley built what was designed for an extensive establishment, for those days and this locality, and for a time there carried on the business of carding wool and dressing cloth.

The business did not come up to his expectations; he became financially involved, and at last gave up the business.

The old dam now remaining on that site, and a mill which was later destroyed by fire, were erected about 1871 by Joseph Bailey and his son, George F. Bailey, who moved the frame of the old Staples mill on Utley Branch and here set it up. Later, because of insufficient power furnished by the brook, steam power was added by subsequent owners and finally the water power was abandoned and the latest operation of the mill was by steam alone. The mill itself was taken down and moved away in 1921.

Between this mill site and the point where the stream crosses the highway in Thompsonburg, Jonathan Melendy formerly had a blacksmith shop containing a trip hammer operated by power furnished by the brook. This was built by Benjamin Wood prior to 1828, while Rogers Thompson owned the land, but has long been out of existence, nothing being left to mark its site at this date.

About three fourths of a mile above the mouth of this brook Andrew Mason, in 1861, built a saw mill on the opposite side of the road from the brook, taking the water across in a spout under the roadway. This mill, from its location and appearance, acquired the designation of "the dry land saw mill," but practically no work was ever done by it, a very few logs at most having been sawn the first season and none thereafter.

Just above the junction of this stream with West River, and on the easterly side of the channel, may still be seen an old canal extending down the stream some rods from an old log dam, the lower part of which is still in quite substantial condition. This dam was built about 1826 by Emery Harrington and the old canal conducted the water to an overshot wheel standing just below the point where are now the remains of the tannery dam, and near the highway. This wheel supplied the power for a wool carding machine in a small building which now forms a part of the dwelling house just east of the mouth of the Brook.



In the early spring of 1842, Silas Whitman built a saw mill on the bank a little back of this building, which he then caused to be removed. About the first work done by this new saw mill was the cutting out of timber for the covered bridge now standing across West River in South Londonderry village. The mill continued in operation under different owners until it burned in April, 1865.

On the opposite side of the stream a tannery was put up about 1827 by Ezra Davis who first obtained power for his works by taking the water across the channel in an elevated aqueduct from the old canal above mentioned, but later, and previous to March, 1838, he built the lower dam, the ruins of which are now seen at the upper end of the tannery building which now occupies the site though long since closed to the business to which it was first dedicated. By an accident at the raising of the timbers for the elevated aqueduct above mentioned Ashael Covey lost his life, being crushed between two heavy pieces of the frame.

In the spring of 1838, Davis sold out to Ephriam Walker who used the original building and carried on the tanning business for many years.

This building stood until 1865 when it was torn down by Calvin B. Walker and Henry A. Walker, sons of Ephriam, and the building still standing was erected by them. In common with the other small tanneries in our country towns this one, once the seat of a thriving business, gradually declined in its output and since 1885 has been closed.

Of all the mills and shops thus far mentioned, all on this one small stream, not one remains active and the waters of the brook run idly from the lake to the river without turning a wheel.

Upon "Cook's Brook" three waterpower mills have in the past been in operation, occupying, however, but two sites, though now only parts of the old foundation walls and, possibly, a few charred and rotting timbers remain of any. The mill known to the later generation as the Eddy mill stood just below the point where the highway leading to Rawsonville crosses the stream and was erected about 1859 by Silas Allbe. It had stood idle for many years before its destruction and was consumed by fire communicated from an adjoining dwelling house in 1887.

This site had previously been occupied by a mill which was begun in the fall of 1828 by Thomas Dunham and finished the following spring by Ara Whitman, who, with his brother Ira, took a deed of the same from Dunham in July, 1829. This earlier mill had become a total ruin long before the second one was built.

The other mill on this stream, known as "the Livermore mill," was in that part of the town formerly known as Aiken's Gore, having been built in 1840 by Samuel Livermore. In 1889, the water power being insufficient for the amount of business to be done, steam power was added and the business of manufacturing lumber, chair backs, turned stock, &c. was kept up until

the summer of 1890 when the building and its contents were entirely destroyed by fire. The following year a new steam mill was erected by F. S. & J. L. Livermore, grandsons of Samuel, a short distance southerly from the water mill site, and the mill there, was operated a part of each year by other owners, its product being practically all rough lumber and boards; but it, too, has passed out of existence.

Another mill within the limits of Aiken's Gore, or partly within that territory and part in the town of Jamaica, the town line passing through the building, was built by Flint Richardson about 1839 or 1840 on what is known as Mill Brook. In the fall of 1868, Reverend Adna Newton became the owner of this mill and replaced the old building with a larger one containing more machinery. This mill did considerable business under his management until 1879. At that time the proprietor, Newton, lived in a house close by the mill. This house burned in 1879 and the mill was abandoned, Newton moving his operations to a mill farther up the same stream in the town of Winhall.

On Flood Brook, just below the Landgrove line, once stood a saw mill locally known as the Warner mill, though sometimes called the Rumrill mill. The date of its construction cannot be stated, but it was prior to 1846. In the spring of that year it was conveyed by Selah Warner to John L. Rumrill and continued in use in a small way until about 1875. This mill and a dwelling adjoining stood in a clearing a little south of the highway leading from Londonderry (North village) to Peru, but both mill and dwelling have been abandoned and gone wholly to ruin.

On Utley Branch some thirty rods below the Landgrove line one Jotham Cram began the construction of a dam, planning to erect a powder mill there. The dam was attached to the ledge in the bed of the stream by large iron bolts fixed in the rock and extending through the lower timbers of the dam. Even this care failed to make the structure permanent. The dam, such part as was in fact constructed, was carried away by the stream and the whole project then came to an end. All vestiges of this dam, including the bolts set in the rock, have within a comparatively few years entirely disappeared.

Mark Staples had a mill on this same stream, standing beside the highway near the farm house of Charles D. Moffit, formerly "the Staples place," as locally known. This mill dates from about 1855 and the dam connected with it was quite a distance up the Branch on the meadow across which the water was taken in an open canal heading along the side of the bank to the mill where it turned an overshot wheel, so called. Later this mill passed into the hands of Joseph Bailey who, with his son, George F., removed the building to Thompsonburg where it was set up on, or near, the site of the old Buckley establishment.

Upon Winhall River, just above its junction with West River, are the ruins of a mill, recently fallen down, on the site of one originally built by



David Hazen about 1838 and which was supplied with power by water taken by canal from the dam some twenty rods up the stream.

The first mill at this place burned about 1856 and was rebuilt by Nathan Wyman. A considerable amount of business has been done at this site, but the buildings have been so many times and so extensively repaired that to term it the old Wyman mill would recall the old lady's stockings which had lasted so long "by knitting new feet every other winter and new legs between times."

Some distance above this point and close to the Jamaica line stands the mill of Adrill P. Williams & Son, formerly known as the Henry J. Stewart mill, which continues in operation to this time. The dam is a low structure barely over the line in Jamaica and the water passes across a point of land for some twenty rods and then reaches the wheel with a head of about fifteen feet. Alanson B. Chase and Alfred Goodale put up a mill here in 1847 or 1848 which stood for a few years and was then destroyed by fire. Chase sold out before this fire and Goodale with his father, Timothy Goodale, were operating it at that time. They soon rebuilt and the new mill was substantially the same building that now occupies the site.

The first mill on West River within this town was built in 1785 by Captain Edward Aiken at the north village on practically the same ground now occupied by the saw mill and grist mill of Williams Brothers.

The original dam and building have been replaced and then again rebuilt until the whole is practically new. The original mud sill of the first dam here was a very large pine log and remained in position until 1880 when it was found in so good state of preservation on its removal that some lumber was sawn from it, a part of which was used in the building of the Peabody Hotel ("Riverside Inn"), at the south village in 1882. In 1880, the high water swept away the dam and part of the mill building, but both were promptly rebuilt by Alonzo A. Curtis who then owned the site. This property has passed through many hands and at different times been quite generally known through this region by a variety of names; some derived from the names of its owners, and some from names of those who operated the mill as lessees or otherwise. In some of the old records the premises are referred to as "Chubbuck's Mills," presumably from one Hosea Chubbuck who is said to have run the mill for a time, though his name is not found in the chain of record title to the property as ever having had any title thereto.

In 1867, a joint stock company was formed under the name of "The Londonderry Water Power Association" and the Company made a dam across the river a little below the present mill of Williams Brothers and erected a large frame building on the southerly side of the main street in the North village, to which the water was taken in a long wooden tube. This building was designed and equipped for a woolen factory and was so operated to some extent until 1871. The matters of the Association then became

involved in litigation and for several years the property was idle, the machinery being removed. In 1883 Freeman W. Williams purchased the individual rights of the shareholders and refitted the premises as a machine shop. He continued to operate this shop, both making new machinery and doing general repair work, until 1894 when he sold to Horace A. Hayward. After Hayward's death the shop was used for a while by new owners as a machine shop and then went into a decline from which it has not made recovery.

The settlement at the village of South Londonderry was begun in 1806 when Benjamin Baldwin and Levi Richardson came from Andover, pitched a lot which covered a considerable part of the village site, including the mill site, and built a saw mill and grist mill where the mills stood until recently, just above the covered bridge. This "pitched lot" was conveyed to Richardson in 1808 by deed from James Rogers (son of Colonel James Rogers). About five years later a Mr. Danforth put in a wool carding machine which is said to have been under the same roof with the saw mill and the grist mill. Later a carding mill and cloth dressing establishment was put in operation where L. T. Landman's Clothing Store now stands, just below the bridge. In the "great freshet" in the spring of 1842, all these buildings, with bridge and some other frame buildings, were swept away, but all were soon rebuilt and the sites occupied for the same purposes as before. Some years later, about 1831, a small building between the grist mill and the bridge was erected by Isaac Richardson for a cooper shop. This building burned in 1845 and was rebuilt. It has been used for many purposes since then and is now unoccupied. The building below the bridge was used for various purposes after the machinery was taken out, principally as a store, under various occupants; first as the old "Union Store," the like of which were for many years common in our New England country towns. At one time it was used as a cheese factory and for many different purposes until, in 1891, it was raised up, thoroughly repaired and refitted, the ground floor as a store and the second story for dwelling purposes.

About 1834, Jotham Cram, with the financial aid of Alfred Pierce and Hezron White, built a dam across West River about where the present dam connected with the old "sash and blind shop" stands, and erected a small powder mill on the southerly side of the river. The powder made there, and but little was made, proved more of a success as a fuel than as an explosive, and it is said that the building was at a later date used as a blacksmith shop, for forging, etc.

Vague rumors have drifted down through the years that there were not then wanting strong suspicions that base coin was one of the products of this plant. In the "great freshet" of 1842, this building joined the other mills from above and went sailing away with them.



In 1861, Sem Pierce, Jr. purchased this site, put in a dam and erected the building known as the "sash and blind shop" now standing. The following year Mr. Pierce sold the plant to Amasa A. Chase and for several years thereafter the business of making doors, sash and window blinds was there carried on by different owners.

In 1858, Sem Pierce, Jr. and L. K. Howard purchased the old church building on the "Patch," took out the pulpit and pews and used it as a paint shop for finishing carriages and sleighs made by them at their shop adjoining the dwelling house next above the old church. In 1863, they moved the building across the highway and, enlarging it, made of it the carriage shop where they and their successors for a long time made a high-grade of carriages and sleighs, but the plant long standing idle is now a garage and grain store. Power for this shop, when it was in operation, was obtained from a wheel set under the sash and blind shop by lease of rights from owner of that power.

In 1847, Silas Whitman built a dam and mill opposite his residence and operated it for some years as a saw mill and in the manufacture of chair stock, etc. It then passed into other hands and, in August 1875, while owned by John Farnum, was entirely destroyed by fire, and has never been rebuilt.

About 1838, David Hazen began the erection of a dam on West River a little distance above the mouth of Winhall River, but before it was completed a freshet carried away all that had been built and Hazen then abandoned that project and built the mill near the mouth of Winhall River, which he sold to Ezra Ingalls in 1842, where the mill of Nathan Wyman later stood.

In 1894, Charles B. Alexander, who had acquired an interest in the grist mill at South Londonderry, set up an electric light plant in a small addition to the mill which he erected for that purpose. This plant was in use several years but then gave way to a larger and more reliable service from another, and outside, source.

The latest water power to be harnessed and utilized in town is that of Horace G. Alexander & Son on West River midway between the two villages. Here the senior member of this firm built a dam and mill in 1896, taking the water down beside the highway from the dam to the mill just below the iron bridge, where a fall of thirty feet is obtained, making this, as it is claimed, the best power on the river in its whole course.

Why this power remained so long unused and undeveloped it is difficult to understand. Here large quantities of lumber have been manufactured and a considerable business in manufacturing plane-wood stock, lag stock and material for "pickers" in textile mills. Of the latter it is said this mill furnished, for a series of years, more than any other in New England.

It is believed that the list already given includes all the water power establishments that have ever been built in the territory now embraced in

the limits of Londonderry. In addition to these there have been quite a number of temporary mills operated by steam power and set up for the purpose of cutting out the timber on certain wood-lots, the product being altogether rough timbers and boards.

It is said that, at one time, there was a shop in the northeasterly part of the town, on the John Greeley place at "North Windham," where bobbins were made by machinery operated by horse power.

In the early days manufacture of potash and "pearl ash" or "salts of lye" was carried on, as in practically all other towns in this locality, and the product had almost the standing of legal tender.

Several establishments devoted to this industry and of greater or less pretensions existed in different parts of the town, the last of the old buildings recalling that industry having stood, until 1890, a little east of the main street in the village of South Londonderry.

The Montague Paper Co. of Turners Falls, Mass., in 1888, put up a substantial frame building with machinery, operated by steam power, for cutting up and preparing spruce, poplar, &c. for pulp stock, on the small flat on the southerly side of the river opposite the Walker tannery. This building was burned in 1893 and was not rebuilt.

About 1834, a brick yard was established on the right bank of the river in the south village and was operated by John Whitcomb, Thomas S. Viall and Israel Whitcomb, at different times, covering a period of a very few years. The clay was taken from the bank just back of the yard, where the railroad now passes, and, in preparing the railway roadbed, some boards or planks which had lain at the bottom of a part of the old clay pit were discovered quite deeply covered in the earth. At this yard were made the brick from which were constructed the Baptist Church building, the Clark Aldrich house, now the home of H. G. Alexander, and the house on "the square" in the south village, the home of Marvin J. Howard, as well as some smaller lots.

There was also a brick yard at Thompsonburg where were made the brick for constructing the house on the hill, owned by Mrs. Mansfield, which was built by David Thompson, owner of the yard, and also the house on the farm next east of the Captain James place. Later, and in quite recent years, Alphonzo E. Cole had a small brick yard on his farm near the south line of the town and made one or two kilns before he abandoned the business.



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## Post Offices, Post Roads, &c.

THE first Post office in town was established March 25, 1823, at Londonderry (North Village), with Samuel P. Arnold as postmaster.

The first duly established mail route supplying this office seems, from the Department records, to have been No. 285, from Manchester, by Winhall, Peru, Londonderry, Chester (South Village), Chester and Springfield to Charlestown, N. H., 44 miles, once a week from July 1, 1825 to Dec. 31, 1828.

From what point or in what way mails were brought to the office prior to the establishing of this post route cannot be ascertained.

No information on this point, nor as to the name of the contractor on this route No. 285, is obtainable owing to the fact that the records of the Department covering this period were partially destroyed by fire in 1836.

January 1, 1829, and for some time thereafter this Post Office was supplied by route No. 459, from Manchester, by Factory Point, Winhall, Peru, Landgrove, Londonderry, Simonsville, Chester and Springfield to Charlestown (N. H.), 44 miles, six times a week, in stages; W. B. Leland, of Springfield, Vt., contractor. The earliest record of any mail route in this vicinity to be found in the Department records is in an advertisement issued for bids for service on several routes, including one from Chester (South Village), by Andover, Weston, Landgrove and Peru to Manchester, once a week, from Nov. 1, 1815 to Dec. 31, 1817, but there is no record showing whether a contract was ever awarded for this service.

The mail for residents of the "South Village" for many years, and until the establishment of an office at South Londonderry, all came to the North Village and was brought over by the people "taking turns" in going for such as belonged in this neighborhood.

The office at South Londonderry was established September 20, 1852, with Hiram L. Porter as postmaster. August 28, 1861 the post office at "North Windham," within the town of Londonderry, was established, with George W. Davis as postmaster. This office was discontinued a few years since.

Late in 1904 a rural free delivery route served from the South Londonderry office was established, extending through the northwesterly corner of Jamaica and a part of Winhall, about 23 miles.

About a year later a second route, from the same office, was created which passed through the northwesterly part of this town and through Landgrove, about 21 miles.

A third route from this office was set up in 1909, extending into Windham, and  $23\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length.

These routes naturally increased the business at the South Londonderry office and resulted in raising it to the third class, or a "Presidential," office, January 14, 1916.

The matter of building a railroad up the West River valley was agitated for many years before anything more substantial than agitation resulted. Early in the days of railroad building in Vermont a preliminary survey was made, extending up through Londonderry and Weston, but nothing was done more than this slight preliminary work.

The project of constructing a road in this valley slumbered on for many years, from time to time talked over at the chance gatherings of those hoping for the eventual coming of such a road, until the session of the Legislature in 1867 when a charter was granted to "The West River Railroad Company," granting authority to build a railroad from Brattleboro to Jamaica. Several later sessions brought amendments and additions to the original act of incorporation and by the amendment of 1876 the corporate name was changed to "The Brattleboro and Whitehall Railroad Company," with authority given for extending the line through Londonderry and other towns to the State line at Whitehall, N. Y.

Following this, "Railroad Meetings" were held in the various towns along the proposed route and several towns, including Londonderry, voted, under authority of the statutes, to aid in constructing the line from Brattleboro to South Londonderry. The shortening of the road became necessary from the failure of the more westerly and northerly towns to grant aid.

Through 1877 and the spring of 1878 the subject of town aid to the projected road was given no time to slumber or rest.

Londonderry voted to give its assistance to the full limit allowed by law, eight times the amount of the Grand List; to subscribe this to the capital stock, and to issue bonds to raise the required funds.

Commissioners were chosen to perform the acts necessary to make effective this vote of aid. This being done by the Commissioners, James L. Martin, J. Washburn Melendy and Josiah Pierce, proper records attesting such acts were made April 11, 1878 and in due course 232 shares of the capital stock were issued to the town.

Other towns down the valley voted like aid and many private subscriptions to the stock were made in this and other interested towns.

All this was done without expectation of the stock having then or later value, but practically as a gratuity or gift to insure the construction of the



road. The work of surveying and grading was taken up and went slowly on until, in the fall of 1880, the rails were laid and on November 18, 1880 trains began to run on regular schedule, and continued from that date forward, though the actual running of the trains often proved exasperatingly irregular, until the "Flood of November, 1927," when all service on the line was suspended.

When the grading was begun the proposed gauge was two feet but this was changed to three feet and as such the road was equipped and operated for nearly twenty-five years.

In connection with the completing and equipping the line it had been found necessary to issue bonds secured by mortgage of the road and, upon foreclosure proceedings being instituted by the bond holders, a compromise was effected whereby a decree was agreed upon which contained provisions for continuing the existence of The Brattleboro and Whitehall Railroad Company; for changing from the narrow to the standard gauge, and for the future operation of the line. Under this decree and the provisions of statute a reorganization was effected by the bondholders and a new company thereby came into existence which assumed the name of "The West River Railroad Company," thus reviving and perpetuating the name given in the original charter. In July, 1905, the change from narrow to standard gauge was made in a single day.

Closely following the advent of the railroad the Western Union Telegraph Line was extended to South Londonderry from Brattleboro and operated for many years, though later discontinued.

A little earlier than this, in the spring and summer of 1880 a telegraph line was constructed from Sunderland via Manchester and Peru to the two villages in this town, in each of which an office was established.

This line was a private venture and was soon extended through Windham and Grafton to Bellows Falls. After several years use it was equipped with telephone instruments, later passed into other hands and was consolidated with local lines later established.

The earliest telephone service was, however, by a branch of the "New England" lines extending from Ludlow via Weston to South Londonderry with an office at each village. Contributions in way of poles and labor were made by various parties along the line to induce the building of this branch but the service continued over only a comparatively short period. The people became dissatisfied with what they considered the greed of the corporation and the result was that the wires were taken down in 1887 after a service of about four years.

Later, in the fall of 1900, Melendy Brothers, of South Londonderry, entered the telephone field getting their first line, which extended to Bondville, into commission February 1, 1901. From time to time thereafter they established new lines, purchased some local short lines in nearby territory,

built various branches and extensions and effected connections with the "New England" lines, by means of which a satisfactory service has been since maintained. In December, 1921, this Meledny line was sold to Martin H. Gleason, of Wardsboro, and continued in operation under his management until a newly organized corporation "The Windham County Telephone Company," purchased the line and now operates the same.

In 1883, George T. Shanks, who had been for some time a resident of the town and had built up a small business in job printing, conceived the idea of starting a newspaper at South Londonderry.

The outlook was not glowing with promise for its success but the matter was pushed forward persistently by Mr. Shanks until *The Londonderry Sifter* was launched as a weekly newspaper, Mr. Shanks being editor and proprietor.

The first issue appeared December 7, 1883, and the paper continued under his management and editorial care until December, 1904, when advancing age compelled him to give up the work. In the early years of its existence various troubles beset the sheet and menaced its life.

Nothing but the dogged persistency of its founder saved it from being smothered and compelled to suspend.

He made it live and it grew and thrived, both in influence and circulation, beyond the expectation of any who knew its field and early prospects.

Subsequent to the sale by Mr. Shanks the plant and paper passed through various hands but never showing as much vitality as in its earlier years.

It, at last, ceased to appear at all, dying from lack of proper nourishment.



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## Cemeteries

THE earliest interments in town, after its settlement, were made in private ground, but how many such there were is and ever must be uncertain.

The earliest record of any movement toward establishing a public cemetery is found in a warning for town-meeting bearing date August 15, 1796, which contains an article "To See what the town Will do about providing a Bureing place."

On the 27th of the same month the meeting was held and it was "voted there Be a Committee of three to look & provide a Bureing Place, Viz. David Cochran & Joseph Oterson & Ebenezer Cobb."

No further reference to this subject appears until, at a town-meeting, held Sept. 27, 1798, it was voted "to Except a Present of one acre of Land from Jonathan Aiken for a Burying place, where the Ground has Been Broke for that purpose,—to Clear and fence Said acre of land Deasently and Seed it to Grass."

While no more definite description of the plot exists, it is more than probable that it was the site of the cemetery near the shore of Lowell Lake, which is, so far as known, the oldest of our public burial grounds.

Many of the graves there are unmarked while others are to be located only by rough, unlettered stones and a few, only fifteen in number, are marked by inscribed stones.

The stone bearing the earliest date stands at the grave of Daniel Aiken, "Son of Esq. Edward Aiken & Margie, his wife," who died April 12, 1785, and the latest inscription records the death of Sarah, wife of Wm. Cox, as Feb. 9, 1837.

The whole of the lot until recently, was so overgrown by trees and bushes that it was impossible to definitely trace its boundaries or determine the number of graves it contained.

In fact, were the gravestones removed, there would have remained practically nothing to distinguish the plot from any other part of the wild wood-lot which surrounds and covers its entire extent.

At the annual town-meeting in March, 1803 it was voted "to allow Luther Osgood six Dollars for one acre and half of Land for a Bureing yard where the ground is now Maid use of for that purpose, uppon condition that he shall authenticate a good deed of said Land to the town."

Although it appears this land had already been made use of to some extent for burial purposes it would seem that the condition as to conveyance by Osgood was not complied with for, in the warning for the next town-meeting an article was inserted to see what the town would do relative to a burying place, but in the record of proceedings at that meeting no reference is made to this article.

Luther Osgood then lived upon what was later known as the Calef place, on the hill southeasterly from the North village and the premises were then under a mortgage, which fact may explain his inability to give the town good title.

Prior to Nov. 20, 1805 Osgood had sold the premises to Hosea Chubbuck, and on that date the latter conveyed the farm with reservation in the deed of one-half acre "which is improved as a burying ground." How long it had been so used, and by whom, none can tell. In 1832, Chubbuck, by warranty deed, conveyed this land so reserved "a burying ground, containing one-half acre of land, reserving to myself all that part of said half-acre which now contains the graves and remains of my deceased friends."

Though not a public cemetery in fact, it is said to have really been used as such and the last interment there was made about 1850. At this time there is no way of fixing the boundaries of this cemetery or locating any of the graves therein.

Not many years since, many gravestones, some bearing inscriptions and others being merely uncut, natural slabs, stood on the lot, which was on the easterly side of the "Hill Road," just south of the house built by William F. Sutton, but they have all mysteriously disappeared and the place is now part of a cultivated field.

The Middle-of-the-town cemetery, so called, dates from Sept. 28, 1804, on which date Stephen Chaffee conveyed to the Selectmen, for the use of the town as a burial place, a tract bounded on one side by the south line of his farm, and Arrington Gibson likewise conveyed a small plot adjoining on which was erected a "hearse-house," later moved away and used for a time as a dwelling. Just when the first grave was opened in this lot cannot be determined as many of the graves are not marked by inscribed stones. The plot is well filled and no burial has been there made for many years.

The first cemetery at Thompsonburg was located some rods easterly from the present site of the school-house, a place selected and set apart by Samuel Thompson, the then owner of the land. This plot was used until November, 1825 seven bodies, all children, having been buried there.

Eliza, daughter of Isaac Gale, died Nov. 27, 1825 and was the first to be buried in the present Thompsonburg cemetery now called "Rest Haven." In the following month the seven bodies lying in the lot east of the school-house were removed to this cemetery.



Rogers Thompson then owned the land and upon conveying his farm, in the spring of 1828, made reservation of the plot which, under date July 26, 1856, for the expressed consideration of five dollars, he quit-claimed to the town. There has been enclosed with the original lot a small plot on the easterly side, set apart by private individuals for their own family burial plots.

The cemetery at the "North Village," now known as "Riverside," was originally a small plot about six rods square conveyed to the town by Joseph Johnson in 1832 for "a burying ground." In 1859 this was enlarged by the town's purchase of a small adjoining parcel; and, as all this space had become filled, in 1886, a considerable addition was made on the west and north of the original plot. No records can be found whereby to fix the date or manner of acquiring the "Yearly Cemetery," in recent years named "Glebe View," in the south part of the town. The plot was carved out of a farm once owned by George Hoskins, conveyed to him in 1825 by warranty deed without any reservation. Hoskins conveyed the farm March 30, 1840, but with a reservation of three-fourths of an acre then used as a burial ground. In 1891 an addition of about the same size as the original lot was made by the town on the northerly side and a later addition has been made on the west.

In addition to these there are several family, or private, burial grounds, all small plots, one of which, near the former homestead of Washington Brooks just off the hill road between the two villages, was formally conveyed to the town in 1897.

Others are the Perry plot on the farm formerly occupied by Elijah Carleton; the Eaton lot, on the farm formerly of David Aldrich, containing, among others, the grave of a soldier of the Revolution; the Daniel Harrington lot, on the farm of Archie W. Bemis; the Stevens plot northerly from Lowell Lake, from which some of the bodies have been removed to public cemeteries, and the Collins-Whitman lot on the farm formerly of Arthur H. Holden at the Middle-of-the-town.

Several former family lots have been, in recent years, abandoned, the remains and stones removed to public cemeteries; one on the old Daniel Buxton farm near the South village; the Whitman lot on the farm of Curtis Shattuck; the Rugg lot at the southwest corner of the town on the farm formerly owned by William Rugg; one beside the road just above the residence of J. Chandler Gale north of the South village; the old Hobart lot at the extreme north part of the town; the Dodge lot on the main road to Weston, opposite the dwelling of Anna M. Wait; the Barton lot, on land formerly of Henry M. Bemis, at North Windham, so-called, and the Arnold lot at the top of the hill, on the old homestead of Samuel Arnold. There are said to be, and doubtless are, several other places where private interments have been made in the earlier years, which cannot be now definitely located.

In 1917, the town elected a Board of Cemetery Commissioners and then placed the public cemeteries in its charge. By public appropriations and private donations, made by individuals whose friends and relatives have found final resting place in these plots, funds have been afforded to improve the several cemeteries and good use has been made of the same by the Commissioners, most noticeably so in the old "Lowell Lake Cemetery" which has been cleared of brush growth and enclosed by suitable fence.

While the number of former residents of the town whose bodies now rest in her soil can never be definitely determined, it cannot be doubted that they outnumber those still living within her borders.



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## Military Record

THE town of Kent may, in a certain sense, be said to have had its origin in military service and this branch of its history thus antedates its existence under the original grant.

There seems little or no ground for doubting that, through his services in the French and Indian War, as an officer in the celebrated "*Rangers*," who took their name from his brother Robert, Colonel James Rogers gained the acquaintance and acquired the influence which enabled him to secure the grant of the township when, at the close of that contest, the Colonial authorities of New York were parcelling out tracts to favorites and to officers of his majesty's service. It is at least equally probable, as local tradition asserts the fact to be, that others of the early settlers also participated in that war and possible that his and their first knowledge of this territory, then ungranted, may have been gained by passing through this section on the way from their New Hampshire homes to the vicinity of Lake George and the upper Hudson, the scene of much of the service of Rogers' Rangers.

No full and concise statement, or one at all satisfactory, of the record of the town in relation to the War of the Revolution is possible. During that period the original town was undivided, embracing both Londonderry and Windham, so that the record, whatever it was, is the joint heritage of the two towns as they now exist.

On the one side it is certain that Colonel Rogers entered the King's service and actively participated in the military operations of the British forces from 1777 to the close of the war, but he was the only one known or believed to have entered such service from Kent.

Meagre and most unsatisfactory is the evidence as to the aid this town rendered the American cause. From the fragmentary town records of those days still preserved it appears that in April, 1778, the town voted a bounty of thirty pounds each for two soldiers for the term of seven months, but whether such soldiers were secured or enlisted and, if so, who they were cannot be learned. In March, 1782, at a meeting duly warned to take action relative to raising the town's "quota of men for the ensuing campaign," bounty and monthly wages for two soldiers were voted, and Samuel Eayres, John McCormick and John Mack were excused from paying any part of such bounty because of their own previous service.

At the same time it was voted to hire Jonathan Aiken and James Mack to go into service to fill this quota. As to their actual entry into the service doubt is raised by the fact that, in March of the next year, vote was passed to pay *one soldier* "for his service in the last Campaign, viz. From the time of his Entry into Service until the time he was discharged." The bounty voted the preceding year was 7 pounds 10s, to each, and the wages fixed at two pounds per month, "to be paid in Cleaning of Land att 2 Pounds Pr. acre and to be made fit for the Seed by the first of September 1783." The soldier to whom payment was voted in 1783 was not named.

This comprises all the information afforded on this subject by the town records. The exemption of Eayres, McCormick, and Mack from payment of the bounty has led to the assertion that they served from this town or to its credit. Investigation leads to the conclusion that such assertion is without foundation, and that their service was to the credit of another locality and prior to their coming to Kent to reside.

This is true of Eayres (sometimes written Ayers) and Mack, both of whom entered the "three years service" from Londonderry, N. H. and came here after completing their term of service. Eayres was a member of Captain George Reid's Company of Londonderry, N. H. men who marched to Medford, Mass. upon news of the battle of Lexington and it is said, apparently upon good authority, that others who later became residents of Kent were in the same company. Detachments of General Stark's forces who fought the battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, passed through this town on their way thither; one party, at least, following up the "Middle Branch" of Williams River from Chester, and another, if not more than one, up the "South Branch" of the same river. The former passed over the hill from near Simonsville to Lowell Lake, and the other coming up to the farm of Deacon Edward Aiken, where they camped for at least one night, over the route now known as the "Popple Dungeon" road. A roadway was constructed by the troops across the marsh at the Lake, or "Great Pond," and some of the logs used to "corduroy" the same remained to show its location until, a few years since, the raising of the water level by a dam across the outlet made it impossible to trace its course. Near by this old road there were found within a comparatively few years, two cannon balls, ancient and rust-eaten, buried in the dirt and mud. It is said, and very likely with truth, that several residents of Kent joined these New Hampshire troops and participated in the battle. A list of such was long held in tradition and numbered eleven names. The fact that the same tradition asserts that they then served under Captain George Reid in his Company leads to grave doubts as to the reliability of the tradition. Captain Reid, who commanded the Londonderry, N. H. contingent that marched to Medford, had been promoted before this gathering of Stark's forces and was at that time on service in a distant



locality; and the Londonderry, N. H. Company at the battle of Bennington was commanded by Captain Daniel Reynolds.

The extreme difficulty, and in not a few instances impossibility, of verifying some claims to the honor of military service in the War of the Revolution put forth by descendants of the alleged soldiers is found greatly increased in this State from the peculiar conditions then existing in Vermont. Bounded on three sides by Provinces making claims to some or all of her territory and especially harassed by New York's claim to jurisdiction and dominion throughout her borders; owning allegiance and yielding obedience to none, she asserted and maintained that her lands and people were "Independent of all, save the mercies of God."

The Congress refused to recognize that there was really a Vermont and hence there were no Vermont regiments, as such, in the Federal Army. Vermonters, however, were not wanting in the patriot army. Many entered organizations of adjacent Colonies and her independent military forces by their willing and effective service attested Vermont's loyalty and devotion to the general cause, and, as stated by Professor J. E. Goodrich: "Rangers and Minute men and Scouts were active or waiting for orders all over the Grants." With knowledge of the antecedents of some of the settlers of Kent, veterans of the French and Indian War, it is hard to believe that they were wholly wanting in this later conflict and without representation in some of the bodies mentioned by Professor Goodrich, though we lack absolute proofs of their service.

At the taking of the census in 1840 there were eight men resident in Londonderry who were pensioned for Revolutionary service, viz: Edmond Ingalls, Thomas Read (Reed), Samuel Davis, Benjamin Pierce, Nathan Whiting, Berreck (Baruch) Bolster, Jeremiah Wheeler and Abraham Abbott and in Windham there were four, viz: John Gould, Archibald Mack, Abial Whitman and James Smith; but it seems more than probable, in some cases certain, that they rendered the service before becoming residents of those towns, or the ancient town before its division.

Within the present town of Londonderry are fourteen graves which have, for years past, been deemed by the local Grand Army Post and Sons of Veterans entitled to decoration as those of Revolutionary soldiers. As to some of those accorded this honor there is strong reason for doubting their having seen any service in the Revolution. As to some of the list there can be no question since there exist records attesting their service, though from localities other than Kent or ancient Londonderry; but here they ended their course and here their bodies lie. The great majority of the graves in the first or oldest cemetery in town are without stones, markers or any records to indicate whose body was there interred, and it is not doubted that, from this fact, due honors may not have been paid to all entitled to such recognition in the annual observance of Memorial Day. The like condition as to

doubts and question exists relative to graves in that part of the ancient town now Windham.

It may well be, and indeed is well nigh apparent, that in making these lists all doubts and question were resolved in favor of the reputed soldier; that it was better to accord honor where not merited rather than to deny it to any one to whom rightly due. This is true, too, as to the list of graves of reputed soldiers in the later war of 1812. Some of these men who have been accorded the honor of the flag and wreath in the annual decoration of soldiers' graves, while entitled to the military titles borne by them in life and, in many cases, inscribed upon their tombstones only won the same on the bloodless fields of militia training grounds and never participated in other military action. Even if and when all the data and records in the archives of the State are arranged and made really accessible for use, there is reason to doubt the ability of the present or a future generation to surely make all due credits for service in those wars to this and many other towns; to the soldiers themselves, or their memory. It certainly is impossible now to do so.

In the palmy days of the old-time militia; of June trainings and annual musters Londonderry was well represented in all branches of the service. At one time there was an organized cavalry troop, a rifle company, an artillery company, and an un-uniformed militia company, the last termed by the more pretentious organizations "the Stub-toe Company"; and locally notable were the occasions when they paraded and "trained" before the admiring eyes of the attending crowds.

In each of these bands or organizations Londonderry had representation, as did various near-by towns and all, at times, gathered here for "training." The artillery company seemed to take first rank with the populace on these occasions, doubtless owing in part to the more formidable appearance of their weapon and their ability to make therewith a more prodigious noise than their comrades of other arms.

A further reason for this partiality may have been the fact that this was more distinctively a Londonderry organization.

It was known as the Londonderry Artillery Company, though having some members from adjoining towns, and was formed as early as 1835, probably in that year, for, on Nov. 5, 1835, at the session of the Legislature, an Act was passed directing the Quarter Master General of the State "to provide, at the expense of this State, a suitable piece, with carriage and apparatus, for the use of an artillery company in Londonderry," but containing provision that the company, at their own expense, should "provide a suitable gun-house for the safe keeping of said field-piece, carriage and apparatus, to the satisfaction of the Quarter Master General before they take any benefit of this act." The gun-house was constructed at the "Middle-of-the-town," on the highway leading past the old church and nearly opposite that struc-



ture; and was, presumably, satisfactory since the "piece" was furnished by the State. This Company was incorporated by the legislature in 1835.

Ezra Davis went from Londonderry to the arsenal at Vergennes and brought it here, unmounted notwithstanding the direction of the legislature as to furnishing a carriage. Lyman Whitman procured, in Chesterfield, N. H., the oak timber from which he fashioned the wheels and other wood work of the carriage; and Allen Howard, local blacksmith, affixed the tires and other necessary iron parts. All this work was so well and thoroughly done that the carriage, in spite of many experiences seemingly as trying as actual war service, even now appears as strong and serviceable as in the day when the old gun awoke the valley's echoes by its first salute. After many years in which the company proudly maintained its organization, with occasional activities in military evolutions and mimic warfare, it ceased to function as a part of the State's military force. When this took place the old cannon was not returned to the arsenal but remained, as it still remains, here in town. The gun-house built for its safe keeping long since ceased to shelter it and has been but a memory only for these many years. No one asserted title to the "piece" and for a long period, reaching down to the recent past, it passed through experiences and was subjected to treatment beside which an active military campaign would seem no hardship.

A detailed history of all that befell the ancient piece during those years, if written by a competent pen, would rival in attractive and entertaining interest the detective stories and "first sellers" of the present day. Different bands, cliques or factions came into being in town, whose aim was to gain possession of the gun and carriage, one or both, from such of the rival bands as at the time had the same in possession or had knowledge as to the place or places of their concealment.

At times one band would know the location of the gun while the carriage, or parts of the carriage, were in control of another faction and well hidden from the holders of the gun itself. Often the dismounted gun reposed in one part of the town while its dismembered carriage was scattered in various other locations, frequently miles apart.

Buried in the cellars of dwellings and of barns, in cultivated fields under growing crops; hidden beneath the planking on bridge ends, and in the bottom of hay mows; sunk in the depths of the mill-pond, and covered in the saw dust, shavings and bark shreds at the mill yard, the unmounted piece has lain concealed, at times for years in one place before being discovered and removed by a rival band.

At length, upon an occasion when all desired the cannon for use at a local celebration, the several parts were brought together and, from that time forward, "stealing the cannon" seemed to have lost its fascination. Soon thereafter Hon. James L. Martin purchased the "piece" from the State and

turned it over into the keeping of the local Camp of Sons of Veterans, in whose care it still remains.

Under changes in the Militia Laws the old-time "trainings" and "musters" were discontinued and passed into memories, growing more and more indistinct with passing time, and for years the military spirit was inactive and training days unobserved and almost unknown.

So it was until the Civil War of 1861-5, long before conceived amid the mutterings and contentions concerning slavery, had its birth and the attack upon Fort Sumpter gave notice that of military force the Nation had sore need.

That this spirit only slumbered, like fire raked up in ashes, and that it still had all the vigor, readiness and earnestness of former days, when the fathers went forth to battle, was at once and abundantly proven.

Promptly upon the call for troops this town took up its share of the burdens which war had imposed and all its duties, to the very end of that war, it performed loyally and well; for which it claims no more and accepts no less credit than belongs to other towns of the state which met like duties and bore like burdens for those succeeding years of conflict.

The first formal action or vote of the town in connection with the provision of measures to meet President Lincoln's call for volunteers was taken July 28, 1862, at a town meeting warned, or called, twelve days previous; Article 2 of the warning being: "To see if the town will vote to raise money to pay those who have or shall hereafter volunteer and go into the service of the United States as a soldier on a requisition upon the Governor of this State, if so how much and how they will raise the same, when & how they will direct the selectmen to carry the same into effect."

This meeting directed payment of fifty dollars to those who should thereafter volunteer and serve "as soldiers," to the number required to fill the quota of the town; and the selectmen were directed to draw orders for a like sum, "payable on demand and on interest," to each of the volunteers who had previously been mustered into U. S. service to the credit of the town.

The dates here given do not mark the beginning of the town's work in this connection, for earlier calls and quotas had been met and filled without bounties or other financial inducements.

Previous to the warning of this meeting, there had been twenty-eight enlistments, in seven regiments, to the credit of the town and each of that number became entitled to the bounty of fifty dollars as a merited gift rather than an inducement to enter the service.

At a special town meeting, Oct. 4, 1862, the town voted "to pay each volunteer who has enlisted to fill up the quota of nine months men from this town fifty dollars, when they shall be accepted and mustered into the United States service."



Sixteen men, on the mustering into service of the 16th Vermont Regiment, became entitled to this bounty, and it is to be noted that all of them had enlisted in August, more than a month prior to the voting of the bounty.

On November 17, 1863, it was voted "to pay volunteers from this town to the number of 19, sufficient to fill our present quota, each the sum of twenty dollars per month for their services as they may render the same in the army of the United States." On the 4th of May following, the record shows a vote "to raise one man for the 17th Regt.", and to pay him twenty dollars per month.

The latter part of 1864 and early months of 1865 were filled with activity on the part of the selectmen who had been given wide powers in matter of filling the call for soldiers.

At town meetings, special and regular annual, ways and means for securing enlistments and for equalizing bounties and wages to those in service and such as might or would enlist to the town's credit were discussed, formulated, and passed by formal votes and taxes laid to raise the necessary funds therefor. The certificate of amounts expended by the town in support of the war, as made to the state authorities at a later date, shows that \$28,359.98 had been so paid; and this includes no account of contributions from citizens in support of the Sanitary and other Commissions in their work for and among the soldiers in camps, hospitals and field service, nor the funds privately furnished to individual soldiers in hospitals or in active operations.

The town's record during those trying months and years as to activity in home duties in support of the war reflects high credit, and her *Honor Roll*; those who "wore the blue," has these names:

ABBOTT, Abial S.	Dec. 26, 1863	Company E, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
ABBOTT, Charles	Dec. 17, 1863	E, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
*ABBOTT, George T.	Sept. 3, 1861	I, 4th	Vermont
ADAMS, George W.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
AIKEN, Alonzo	Sept. 24, 1861	C, 6th	Vermont
AIKEN, Walter A.	Sept. 24, 1861	C, 6th	Vermont
ALBEE, Justin V.	Nov. 30, 1863	E, 5th	Vermont
ALBEE, Silas	Aug. 12, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
ALLEN, Joseph	Aug. 29, 1862, and Mar. 8, 1865,	D, 16th, I, 2nd	Vermont Vermont
ARNOLD, Samuel D.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
BAILEY, George F.	Aug. 19, 1864	G, 11th	Vermont
BALDWIN, Andrew	Aug. 13, 1864	G, 11th	Vermont
BALL, William D.	Mar. 7, 1865	Unassigned Recruit	
BARNARD, Lucius M.	Aug. 9, 1864	3d Battery, Lt. Art.	
BEMIS, Willard M.	July 30, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont

BENNETT, Jacob W.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
BIXBY, Armentus B.	Oct. 6, 1862	Asst. Surgeon, 4th	Vermont
BUXTON, Albert	Oct. 29, 1861	H, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
BUXTON, Horace	Aug. 11, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
BUXTON, Willard D.	Mar. 7, 1865	I, 2nd	Vermont
CAMPBELL, Abner T.	Nov. 30, 1863	G, 11th	Vermont
CAMPBELL, E. Romanzo	Aug. 4, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
CAMPBELL, George R.	Aug. 2, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
*CAMPBELL, Henry L.	Oct. 21, 1861	H, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
*CHURCHILL, William H.	Oct. 18, 1861	H, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
CLAYTON, Austin W.	July 30, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
COOMBS, Edmund G.	Mar. 7, 1865	Hancock's 1st Army Corps	
COVEY, Joseph N.	Dec. 1, 1863	H, 9th	Vermont
DAVIS, Daniel W.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
*DAVIS, Hymenius Re-en.	Jan. 5, 1864	H, 8th	Vermont
DOWLING, William	Mar. 24, 1865	K, 7th	Vermont
EDWARDS, Alonzo T.	Sept. 7, 1861	K, 4th	Vermont
FARNUM, Cortes L.	Aug. 9, 1864	G, 11th	Vermont
FAULKNER, Eli J.	Nov. 28, 1861	H, 8th	Vermont
FISK, Otis R.	May 25, 1864	E, 5th	Vermont
GIBSON, William H.	Aug. 5, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
GLEASON, David W.	July 31, 1863	I, 2nd	Vermont
GODDARD, David B.	Aug. 9, 1864	G, 11th	Vermont
GREELEY, Cyrus A.	Nov. 16, 1863	H, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
GRISWOLD, Collins R.	Nov. 16, 1863	H, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
*GRISWOLD, Lucius D.	Oct. 7, 1861	E, 1st Vt. Cav.	
HALL, Albert U.	July 29, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
HATHORN, Ranson E.	Aug. 11, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
HOLDEN, Harrison	Nov. 16, 1863	G, 11th	Vermont
HOOKE, George W.	Sept. 6, 1861	F, 4th	Vermont
HOUGHTON, Levi	May 7, 1861	I, 2nd	Vermont
HOUGHTON, Stephen	Aug. 9, 1862	I, 2nd	Vermont
HOWARD, George A.,	Aug. 29, 1862, and Aug. 9, 1864	D, 16th	Vermont
HOWARD, Mason F.	Aug. 6, 1862	3d Battery, Lt. Art.	
HOWE, Elwin A.	July 30, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
HOWE, Frank	Mar. 23, 1865	G, 6th	Vermont
HOWE, Omar M.	July 28, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
HOWE, William J.	Aug. 29, 1861	K, 4th	Vermont
HOWE, Zeno D.	Aug. 15, 1864	G, 11th	Vermont
JAQUITH, Thomas J.	May 20, 1861	I, 2nd	Vermont
KELLEY, Anson A.	Jan. 1, 1864	F, 1st Vt. Cav.	
KELLOGG, Aaron	Mar. 20, 1863	G, 11th	Vermont



KELLOGG, Henry	July 31, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
KING, Wallace D.	May 5, 1861, and Mar. 8, 1865	I, 2nd I, 8th	Vermont Vermont
KINGSBURY, Loren	Aug. 31, 1864	H, 9th	Vermont
LANDMAN, John T.	July 13, 1863	D, 6th	Vermont
MILLER, Edmund G.	Aug. 27, 1861	I, 4th	Vermont
PARKER, James P.	Feb. 13, 1862	G, 7th	Vermont
PATTERSON, Samuel	Mar. 17, 1865	I, 2nd	Vermont
PERRY, Daniel W.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
PIERCE, Sem, Jr.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
*PIERCE, William W.	Sept. 3, 1861	I, 4th	Vermont
QUIMBY, Henry R.	Mar. 21, 1865	G, 17th	Vermont
RICE, Edwin L.	July 28, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
RICHARDSON, John C.	May 16, 1861	I, 2nd	Vermont
RICHARDSON, Lowell M.	Dec. 7, 1861	H, 8th	Vermont
ROBINSON, Charles H.	Oct. 24, 1831	H, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
RUGG, Elijah F.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
SHATTUCK, Samuel A.	May 27, 1861	I, 2nd	Vermont
SHUMWAY, Albert A.	Aug. 29, 1861	D, 16th	Vermont
*SHUMWAY, Edwin R.	Sept. 5, 1861	I, 4th	Vermont
STEBBINS, Edwin A.	May 13, 1865	G, 11th	Vermont
*STEVENS, Joel P.	Nov. 4, 1861	H, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
STEVENS, Warren	Oct. 23, 1861	H, 2nd	U.S.S.S.
STEWART, Charles W.	Aug. 29, 1861	D, 16th	Vermont
TENNEY, Whitney	July 31, 1863	I, 2nd	Vermont
THOMPSON, Loring F.	Aug. 5, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
VIAL, Josephus	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
WADE, Stephen	Dec. 6, 1861	G, 7th	Vermont
WAIT, Dexter	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
WALKER, Horace	Dec. 7, 1861	G, 7th	Vermont
WALKER, Horace P.	Jan. 4, 1864	G, 11th	Vermont
WHEELER, Calvin R.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
WHITCOMB, Orrin L.	May 21, 1861	I, 2nd	Vermont
WHITE, John D.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
WHITMAN, Edwin H.	May 21, 1861	I, 2nd	Vermont
WHITMAN, Martin D.	Aug. 29, 1862	D, 16th	Vermont
WHITMAN, Ora O.	Nov. 30, 1863	E, 5th	Vermont
WINSHIP, Charles J.	Aug. 1, 1862	G, 11th	Vermont
WOODCOCK, Hiram	May 11, 1861	I, 2nd	Vermont
WRIGHT, Orrin W.	Nov. 17, 1863	G, 11th	Vermont

In addition to those named, the records in the office of the Adjt. General of the State shows Five men not credited by name. Those marked \* re-enlisted,

in the field, to the town's credit, one of whom, Hymenius Davis, first enlisted to the credit of Landgrove but, on re-enlistment, was credited to Londonderry. Thirteen enrolled men furnished substitutes, but of these substitutes we have little cause to boast or claim credit. One of them, Otis Fish, and he in fact a Londonderry boy, entered the service; earned and received an honorable discharge. None other of them all joined the organizations into which enlisted and, one and all, were in fact neither more nor less than deserters. Fourteen others paid commutation money (\$300.00) as was allowed under provisions of then existing laws. Of those who entered the service, Albert Buxton, George R. Campbell, William H. Churchill, Loring M. Richardson and Warren Stevens were killed in action; and eleven died in hospitals, of disease in service.

In the "World War," so-termed, when our country belatedly took its place to aid in defending civilization against the German onslaught, this town's record was no less creditable than in the period from 1861 to 1865. That all her representatives were not volunteers in this later strife must be accounted for by the different method pursued by the General Government in filling the ranks of her fighting men, and not charged to any decadence of that patriotic spirit which was so fully shown by the earlier generation during the Civil War.

Some of them did enlist before the new method, by "selective draft," was put in force. Such enlistments to the credit of the county, the minimum District recognized under the method and regulations adopted, had part in relieving this county from application of the first "selective draft," an honor shared by but few districts throughout the nation. While all these are credited by the General Government to the larger district, or the county, they are noted in the records of the Vermont Adjutant General's Office as of Londonderry.

Such records credit the following named soldiers to this town:

BEMIS, Clyde Fred	MARDEN, Frank Alfred
BRADSHAW, James Lyman	PATTERSON, William G.
CHURCHILL, Francis Raymond	PERKINS, Clyde James
CHURCHILL, Lyle Cudworth	*REED, Bert William
CORY, Walter Dewey	ROWLEY, Rollin Cassius
DORSET, Gerald John	SHEPARDSON, K. Warner
GATES, George Osborn	*SHEPARDSON, Robert T.
*HOLDEN, Norris S.	STONE, Clarence
HUNT, Norman Lyon	STONE, Robert William
KELLEY, John G.	*WADE, Arthur Nelson
*LANDMAN, Caspar William	WAITE, Clayton Byron
LEONARD, Lawrence	WILDER, Hugh E.
*MAGOON, Harry E.	WYMAN, Guy Morton
MAGOON, Herbert Clifton	



All these were in the land forces; those marked with star (\*) having gone overseas and the others served in the training and mobilization camps in this country in readiness for such foreign service. One, Robert L. Shepardson, who enlisted in Co. I, 1st Vt. Inf. (National Guard), and was transferred to Co. E, 103d Inf., was killed in action.

Two names stand on these records as credited to Londonderry for service in the navy:

JOHNSON, Melvin Ernest,  
MATTSON, Emil Matthew.

The latter is on the "official," or Government, record carried as of Massachusetts, but our State record seems to be better warranted in its credit of the name to Londonderry, since he had been for some years resident here and here had his wife and home at enlistment.

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## Ancient Town Records

FROM the date of the first settlement to April, 1775, the record of the town as a body politic is a blank. Records of any organization or of meetings for the direction of town affairs or exercise of municipal authority by votes or otherwise during this period are wholly lacking.

Since Colonel Rogers alone held the title there was not the necessity, as in nearly or quite all the towns in this section, for meetings and record of proceedings in the division and distribution of the lands to the individual grantees or "original proprietors," for Rogers might, and did, distribute and convey according to his pleasure so long as he remained in town. The period from April, 1783 to March, 1793 is also wholly blank as to any record now known to exist.

This lack of full and regular records in those early years renders it impossible to settle some questions and fix some facts of the highest interest relative to organization or early transactions in town, and difficult to satisfactorily determine many others.

Local traditions and reference to legislative proceedings, and similar State records, enable one to follow the course of the town's development in a general way, but some traditions are found to be at best very unreliable, at times untrue, and always open to some suspicion. A wealth of interesting detail on the subject has been wholly lost beyond any hope of recovery.

There are a few leaves or sheets (more or less mutilated), which were, apparently, once parts of the crude, home-made, stitched books in which the first town clerks made their records, but these are so disconnected and incomplete that they afford practically no definite or material information.

In 1792, the town voted to purchase a book for recording deeds, but some such records had been kept for years prior to that time. A few appear on the loose sheets referred to and, at later date, in a book still preserved entire. This book had already been in use for ten years previous to that vote, the first deed therein having been recorded April 23, 1782. The book contains 368 pages, a few of which remain blank, and about one third are covered by records of deeds of Windham lands subsequent to the division of the ancient township, together with warnings for town-meetings in Windham, the proceedings of such meetings and a few entries of births in families of that town. The book is not bound, but is protected by a loose cover of a folded piece of



rough leather and bears on its first page a certificate, made several years after many deeds had been therein recorded.

For years this remained in Windham and when or how it came to be returned to Londonderry does not appear, but it would seem to have been about 1802. The certificate on its first page states:

*Londonderry March 2d 1789. This Certifys that this book has been and it is hereby Approved as a town book of Records for sd town.*

JOHN WOODBURN:

DAVID COCHRAN: *Selectmen*

NEHEMIAH PIERCE:

Even under this formal dedication of the volume to the purpose or use indicated there does not appear therein any record relating to Town meetings until the warning for the March meeting in 1793.

Only a small portion of the records of the township of Kent are known to exist; and the date when the town was formally organized is not definitely known. It was, however, prior to April, 1775. The records from the time the name was changed to Londonderry to the division, or setting off of Windham, are in the same fragmentary state. For more than a century and a quarter the town clerk's office held no records of town meetings prior to the division of the ancient town in 1795.

About 1890, in connection with a series of articles published in the *Argus and Patriot*, Montpelier, Vt., there appeared what purported to be copies of some records of town meetings of Kent and of the town of Londonderry prior to its division. The manuscript from which these were copied was then in the hands of the late Barnet Waite, long known as "The Old Squire," whose span of life reached nearly a full century and was all spent in this town.

This manuscript was given to him by Deacon Edward Aiken, who was the town clerk at the time the town was divided and whose homestead then became part of the new town of Windham. Not long after this publication Mr. Waite died, and for many years an unavailing search was made for the original papers, or records.

In the summer of 1924, they were discovered by Hon. Albert B. Waite in an antique desk which had descended to him from his grandfather. Judge Waite has caused them to be placed in the town clerk's office, their proper resting place, for there appears to be no question as to their authenticity as original town records. These records are upon sheets coarsely stitched together like an old-time copy book home made for pupil's practice in penmanship and with this manuscript were found three coarse sheets containing five pages of similar records not included in the publication mentioned.

All other records of town meetings prior to 1795 have disappeared and are, doubtless, wholly lost. The past history of these fragments, as well as their

present condition as to legibility, seems to warrant, and almost to require preservation in print and for that reason are here given. They are as follows:

PROVINCE OF NEW YORK,  
County of Cumberland.

*Kent, April 5, 1775.*

YOU are hereby requested to warn the inhabitants of said town to meet att the Grist Mill on Monday, the Eight day of May Next att one of the clock, afternoon, to consider and vote on the following *Article* viz: To SEE whether they will give their consent to change the School Lot as it interferes with James Patterson, and that said Land should be taken for it in some other part of the Town and this shall be your warrant Given by my hand  
*To Mr. David Oughterson.*

EDWARD AIKEN, *Town Clerk.*

*Kent, May ye 8, 1775.*

JAMES PATTERSON chosen Moderator. Voted on the above warrant in the affirmative that there should be land taken in some other Part of the Town for the School Lot, and that Edward Aiken, Samuel Dunlap & David Cochran be a committee to Estimate the same, and it shall be as valuable as the Land for which it is changed.

*Kent, February 21, 1777.*

YOU are hereby Required to warn the inhabitants of said Town to meet att the Grist Mill on Tuesday the 11th Day of March Next att one of the Clock afternoon to act and Vote on the following *Articles*, viz:

- 1st to chuse their Town officers for the Present year.
- 2ly to see whether they will agree to Build a house for Public Worship in said Town and where it shall stand and this Shall Be your warrant given under my hand

*To Mr. Hugh Montgomery*  
Town Constable

EDWARD AIKEN *Town Clerk*

*Kent, March ye 11th 1777*

Meeting opened COL. ROGERS *Moderator.*

TOWN OFFICERS

*Town Clerk*, Edward Aiken, *Town Committee* Edward Aiken, James McCormick, Robert Mack, Edward Aiken Jr., John Woodburn. *Select-*



*men* James Millar, John Woodburn, Edward Aiken. *Constables* Hugh Montgomery, Nathl. Aiken *Invoice men* Rob't McCormick, Robert Millar, Cap't Edward Aiken, Joseph Oughterson. *Surveyors of Highways* John Mack, John Millar, Capt Edward Aiken, Joseph Oughterson. Voted on the second article to build a house for Publick Worship. Chose a *Committee* to fix on the Place where it shall stand. Said *Committee* Edward Aiken, David Cochran, William Mack.

## STATE OF VERMONT

*In County of Cumberland*

*Kent February 18th 1778*

YOU are Hereby Required to warn all the freeholders and inhabitants of said Town to meet on Tuesday the third day of March Next att Ten of the Clock in the forenoon att the house of Mr. Jas. Patterson to Choose a *Representative* to Attend the *General Assembly* to be Holden att Windsor on the 12th Day of March Next and to give in their Votes for a Governor, Deputy Governor, Treasurer and Council.

2ly to chuse all their Town officers for the Currant year. 3dly to see if they will come into any Method to have some Preaching the Present year and this shall be your warrant given

*sign'd Per Order*

EDWARD AIKEN, *Chairman*

*To Nath'l Aiken*

Town Constable

*Kent, March ye 3d, 1778.*

MEETING opened. Cap't Edward Aiken *Moderator*. *Town officers* Town clerk, James Hopkins; *Committeemen*, Robert Anderson, Joseph Oughterson, James Hopkins, *Selectman*, David Cochran, Robert McCormick, Robert Montgomery. *Counters*, Dea. Edward Aiken, John Woodburn. *Town Constables*, Henry Montgomery, Jonathan Aiken. *Surveyors of Road*, Edward Aiken, William Cox, Andrew Patterson, William Mack. *Collector*, Archibald Mack. *Representative*, Edward Aiken.

The above meeting adjourned till the first Tuesday of June.

*Kent, April ye 20, 1778.*

NOTICE is hereby given to the inhabitants of said Town to meet att the Dwelling house of Mr. James Patterson of said Town on Tuesday the 28th Instant att one o'clock P.M. for the following Purpose, viz.

1st to choose a *Moderator* to govern sd meeting.

2dly to see what *Encouragement* they will give for Two Soldiers that are to be Rais'd in said Town for the Term of Seven months.

3dly to give in their votes for a *Probate Judge* for Rockingham District &c.

By me, JAMES HOPKINS, *Town Clerk*.

*Kent, April 28, 1778.*

MEETING opened EDWARD AIKEN, *Moderator*. Voted 30£ per man for Two Soldiers as a Bounty. Voted on the 3d Article in the Negative. Meeting Dissolved.

*Kent, June ye 1st, 1778.*

THE Inhabitants of said Town are hereby Reminded that their *Annual Meeting* stands till Tuesday the 6th of this Instant att Two o'clock P.M. att the Grist Mill.

Pr JAMES HOPKINS, *Town Clerk*.

(No record of proceedings at this adjourned meeting appears.)

*Kent, August 22d, 1778.*

THESE are to Notify the Inhabitants of said Town to meet upon Tuesday the first of September att the Grist Mill att Two o'Clock P.M.

1st to Choose a *Moderator* to govern said meeting.

2dly to give in their votes for a *Governor, Deputy Governor and Council*.

3dly to Choose a man to *Represent* said Town in *General Assembly* to be held att Windsor, and this shall be your *Warrant*

*given under our hands*

ROBERT McCORMICK *Selectmen*  
DAVID COCHRAN

*Sept. 1st, 1778.*

MEETING opened Capt. Edward Aiken chosen moderator Voted to Leave the Choice of Governor & Council with the Representatives. Voted Dea. Edward Aiken Representative Meeting Dissolved.

*Kent, February 22d 1779.*

NOTICE is hereby given to ye Inhabitants of said Town that their *Annual Meeting* is on Tuesday the 2d of March Next to meet att the



Grist Mill att 10 o'Clock in the forenoon. 1st to Choose a *Moderator* to Govern sd meeting. 2dly to choose all their *Town officers* for ye Currant year. 3dly to see what money ye Town will agree to Raise for Preaching the Ensuing year and to Consider upon some other affairs that may be Thought Necessary when met, and this shall be your warrant given under our hands

DAVID COCHRAN *Selectmen*  
ROBERT MONTGOMERY

*March ye 2d 1779*

MEETING opened Dea. Edward Aiken Chosen *Moderator*. *Town Clerk*, James Hopkins, *Selectmen*, Cap't Edward Aiken, Cap't James Anderson, Lieut. James Hopkins. *Constable*, John Mack. *Collector* Joseph Oughterson. *Listers*, David Cockran, Robert McCormick. *Grand Jurymen*, James Patterson, *Tythingman*, Joseph Oughterson. *Leather Sealer*, Archibald Mack. *Surveyors*, Cap't Edward Aiken, John Woodburn, Rob't Montgomery, John Patterson. *Treasurer*, James McCormick. *Brander of horses* Robert Anderson. *Hogg Constable* Lieut. James Hopkins

A *Committee to Provide Preaching* Dea. Edward Aiken James McCormick. Voted Fifty Pounds to be Expended in Preaching the Gospel the Present year. Voted James Hopkins to get a Town Book. Voted Edward Aiken *Justice of ye Peace*. Meeting adjourned till the first Monday of May.

## STATE OF VERMONT

*To the Constable of ye Town of Kent.*

YOU are hereby Required to warn all the freemen of the town of Kent to meet att the house of Mr. James Patterson in said Town on Monday the 6th Day of March next att ten O'Clock A.M. then and there to hold their *Annual Meeting* for the folloeing Purpose, viz. to Chuse a *Moderator* to Govern said meeting. 2d to choose all their *Town officers* for the Ensuing year. 3d to see what method they will take concerning *Preaching* and to act upon any other affairs that may be Thought Necessary when met, and this shall be your warrant given under our hands this 23d Day of Feby 1780.

EDWARD AIKEN *Selectmen*  
JAMES ANDERSON

*March ye 6th*

MEETING opened. Lieut. John Woodburn Chosen *Moderator*. *Town Clerk*, Robert McCormick. *Selectmen*, John Woodburn James Mc-

Cormick, Hugh Montgomery. *Listers*, Robert McCormick, James Mack. *Constable* Robert Anderson. *Collector*, Robert Montgomery. *Grand Juryman*, James Patterson. *Tythingman*, Joseph Oughterson. *Treasurer*, James McCormick. *Surveyors*, Nathaniel Aiken, David Cochran, Robert Millar, Henery Montgomery. *A Committee to Provide Preaching*, Cap't Edward Aiken, John Woodburn. Dea. Edward Aiken Chosen *Justice of the Peace*.

The Above meeting Adjourned till the Second Tuesday of April.

*Kent, April ye 4th 1780.*

THE Inhabitants of said Town are hereby Reminded that their *Annual Meeting* Stands adjourned until Tuesday the 11th of this Instant att two O'Clock P.M. att the Grist Mill.

Pr. ROBERT MCCORMICK, *Town Clerk*.

*April ye 11th*

*Proceedings of this Adjournment as Follows*

Voted 14 Pounds 8S.0 d as good as money Passed in the year 1774 to be expended in *Preaching the Gospel*.

Voted that ye Place of meeting for *Public Worship* be att David Anderson's for ye Present year. Meeting Dissolved.

## STATE OF VERMONT

*Cumberland ss.*

NOTICE is hereby given to the freemen of Londonderry who are Required to meet on Tuesday the 12th Day of December Next att the Dwelling house of David Anderson in said Town att ten o'Clock A.M. for the following Purpose viz.

- 1st to Choose a *Moderator* to Govern said meeting.
- 2dly to Choose a *Representative* to Represent us in the General Assembly of said State.
- 3dly to Choose a *Committee* to Lay out the Publick Lots in said Town And to act upon any other matters that may be Thought Necessary when met.

Given under our hands this 29th Day of November one Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty.

JAMES MCCORMICK

JOHN WOODBURN

*Selectmen*

*December ye 12th 1780.*

MEETING opened, Cap't Edward Aiken Chosen *Moderator*. said Edward Aiken chose *Representative* A *Committee* Chosen to Pitch ye



Publick Rights in ye Town, Joseph Oughterson, Rob't Montgomery, James Mack.

Voted that the Town of Londonderry Hereafter shall have two Centers, and the Publick Lots so be Laid out accordingly.

Meeting adjourned to the first Day of January Next.

*Londonderry, December ye 22d 1780.*

THE Inhabitants of said Town are hereby Reminded that their *Town Meeting* held upon Tuesday ye 12th of this Instant Stands Adjourned to Monday the first day of January Next att one o Clock P.M. att the Dwelling house of David Anderson in the aforesaid Town.

Pr. ROBERT McCORMICK, *Town Clerk.*

(There is no record of proceedings at such adjourned meeting.)

## STATE OF VERMONT

*Cumberland ss.*

NOTICE is hereby given to the Inhabitants of Londonderry who are Qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet on Monday the 19th of this Instant March at the Dwelling house of David Anderson in said Town att Ten o Clock A.M. Then and there to Hold the Annual Town Meeting for the following purpose, viz.

- 1st to Choose a *Moderator* to Govern said meeting.
- 2dly to Choose all their *Town officers* for the Ensuing year
- 3d to see what money the Town will raise to hire *Preaching for the Ensuing year*
- 4th to see where they will have the *Preaching* and hold other Town meetings.
- 5thly to see what the Town will do with the *Bridges* over West River
- 6thly to Choose a Committee to settle with the *Collector* for ye year 1779 & 1780.
- 7th to see if the Town will Raise money to purchase a *Town Book* and to act upon any other matters that may be Thought Necessary When met, and this shall be your warrant given under our hands in Londonderry this 2d day *of March in the year 1781.*

JAMES McCORMICK      *Selectmen*  
JOHN WOODBURN

*March the 19th.*

MEETING opened. Cap't Edward Aiken Chosen *Moderator. Town Clerk*, Robert McCormick. *Selectmen*, Moses Greham, Robert Millar,

Nathaniel Aiken. *Listers*, Andrew Patterson, Jonathan Aiken. *Constable*, Archibald Mack. *Collector*, John Cox. *Grand Juryman*, James McCormick. *Tythingmen*, Joseph Oughterson, William Mack. *Treasurer*, Cap't James Anderson. *Surveyors of Highways*, Joseph Oughterson, William Cox, John Patterson, William Mack, John Mack.

*Voted* that the above Named John Mack be Surveyor for New Dist on ye Cross Road from David Anderson's & Including Henry Montgomery's.

*Voted* Sixty Dollars hard money to be Raised for ye Present year to be Expended in Preaching the Gospel, said money to be Laid on Poll and Estate. *Voted* unanimously That ye Place for Building a House for Publick Worship be North of the Grist Mill upon Cap't Edward Aiken's land, Said House to be Built this Present year, said Aiken proposing to give Two Acres of Land for the above mentioned Purpose.

*Voted* Relative to the Bridges over West River that a Petition be Laid in to ye General Assembly of this State. Committee chosen to settle with ye Collectors for ye years 1779 & 1780. Said Committee John Woodburn, Rob't McCormick, David Cochran. *Voted* that a Town Book be Provided this Present year, said Book to be Provided by the Town Clerk.

A Committee appointed to Provide Preaching, John Woodburn, Joseph Oughterson. Meeting Adjourned till ye 27th of this Instant.

The vote Passed upon the Fourth article of ye Foregoing Warrant is Reconsidered as may be Seen By a Vote on ye warrant Hereafter Recorded.

## STATE OF VERMONT

*Londonderry, September 5th 1781.*

THIS is to Notify the Inhabitants of said Town to meet at ye Grist Mill on the Twentieth of this Instant month Twelve o Clock then and there to Proceed upon the following Articles: first to Choose a *Moderator* to govern said meeting. 2dly to agree upon some Place for *Public Worship*. 3dly to see what they will agree upon for Laying out *Publick Highways* and to Proceed upon affairs that shall be Thought Proper when met.

MOSES GRIMES  
ROB'T MILLER

*Selectmen*

*September ye 20th*

MEETING opened. Edward Aiken Esq. Chosen *Moderator*. *Voted* that a house Be built to meet in for Publick Worship, sd house to be



built west of Mr. James Patterson's Dwelling house, said Patterson will give half an acre of Land for ye above mentioned Purpose. Meeting adjourned till ye first Monday in November.

*Londonderry, October ye 27, 1781.*

THE Inhabitants of said Town are hereby Reminded that their *Town meeting* Held upon the 20th of September Stands Adjourned Till Monday ye Fifth day of November att which Time they are to meet att the Dwelling house of Mr. James Patterson att one o Clock P.M.  
Pr. ROBERT McCORMICK, *Town Clerk.*

*November ye 5th* Voted Relative to the Second article in ye Foregoing warrant Concerning the house to be built for Publick Worship, that the Demensions thereof be 38 feet in Length and Thirty in Breadth. Meeting adjourned until ye 12th of this instant.

*November ye 12th*

MEETING continued. *Voted* that the aforesaid meeting house be set up, Boarded & Shingled & Claboard with saw'd Claboards, ye Floor Laid with one Door Hinged, said work to be Finished in one year from this time.

A *Committee* Chosen to Carry on and Forward s'd Building as far as Before mentioned. Said Committee apointed by a vote of said Town, Edward Aiken, Esq., Cap't James Hopkins, Cap't James Anderson, Robert Millar, John Patterson. That the Aforesaid Committee make an Estimation of the whole cost of Building the meeting house as far as is agreed upon to be done within the Term of one year, that s'd Committee make a Rate of s'd Cost upon the Inhabitants of s'd Town. That s'd committee put a Valuation upon Days works done att said Building, also a Valuation upon Boards, Shingles & Nails & Claboards. That s'd Committee Shal Determine who shall Provide s'd articles.

*Voted* that the Necessary Cost arising from the Building of s'd house be Laid on ye Inhabitants of s'd Town by poll and Estate according to the Valuation of the Invoice Taken this Present year.

Meeting Adjourned until ye 19th of this Instant.

## STATE OF VERMONT

*Londonderry, December 29th 1781.*

NOTICE is hereby given to the Inhabitants of Londonderry to Meet att Mr. James Patterson's Dwelling house on Monday the 7th

Day of January Next att Ten of the Clock A.M. then and there to act upon the following Articles. 1st a Choose a *Moderator* to Regulate said meeting. 2dly to see what they will Do about Raising *Provision for the Troops* in this State for this Present year, and any other affairs that may be Thought upon when met.

MOSES GRIMES

*Selectmen*

ROBERT MILLAR

*January ye 7th 1782.*

MEETING opened, Edward Aiken, Esq., Chosen *Moderator*. Meeting adjourned until the Annual Town Meeting to be held sometime in March Next.

## STATE OF VERMONT

*County of Windham*

To ARCHIBALD MACK, *Constable*:

YOU are hereby Required in the name and by the Authority of the freemen of the aforesaid State to Warn the Inhabitants of Londonderry to meet att the Grist Mill in said Town on Tuesday the fifty day of March Next att Ten o Clock A.M. then and there to hold their *Annual Town Meeting* for the following Purpose, viz.

- 1st to Choose a *Moderator* to Govern said meeting.
- 2dly to Choose all their *Town officers* for the Present year.
- 3dly to see what money the Town will Raise to hire *Preaching for the Ensuing year*.
- 4ly to see if the Town will agree to Raise money to *Purchase a Town Book*.
- 5ly to Proceed upon the *Adjournment* of their Town meeting held upon the 7th of January last, and to act upon any other affairs that may be Thought Proper when met, and this shall be your warrant—given under our hands. Londonderry, February ye 20th 1782.

NATH'L AIKEN

*Selectmen*

ROB'T MILLAR

*I have Posted the above  
warrant agreeable to Law.*

Pr. me ARCHIBALD MACK, *Constable*.

*March ye 5th*

MEETING opened. Cap't Edward Aiken Chosen *Moderator*. *Town Cler*, Robert McCormick, *Selectmen*, Cap't James Anderson, David Cochran, Jonathan Aiken. *Listers*, John Patterson, John McCormick. *Constable*, Edward Cox, *Collector*, William Cox. *Grand Juryman*, Joseph



Oughterson. *Treasurer*, Cap't James Anderson. *Surveyors of Highways*, Lieut. John Woodburn, Cap't Edward Aiken, John Patterson, Rob't Montgomery, Hugh Montgomery Jun.

*Voted* Forty hard Dollars to be Expended in Preaching the Gospel this Present year, Excepting so much as will Purchase a Town Book to be Reducted out of the Aforesaid Sum of money.

Meeting Adjourned until the first Tuesday in April.

NOTICE is hereby given to the Inhabitants of Londonderry that the Adjournment of their *Annual Town meeting* is to be held upon Tuesday the 2d day of April att one o Clock P.M. att the Grist Mill in the aforesaid Town.

Pr. ROB'T McCORMICK, *Town Clerk*.

*Londonderry, March ye 5th 1782.*

## STATE OF VERMONT

*County of Windham.*

To the CONSTABLE of the *Town of Londonderry*:

YOU are hereby Directed to warn the Inhabitants of S'd Town to meet at the Grist Mill on Thursday the twenty first of this Instant March att one of the Clock in the afternoon to Act upon the following articles:

- 1st to choose a *Moderator* to govern s'd meeting.
- 2d to see what method the Town will take to raise their *quota* of men for the *Ensuing Campaign*, and Transact on any other Business that may be Thought Necessary when met, and this shall be your warrant given under our hands.

*Londonderry the Sixteenth Day of March, 1782*

JAMES ANDERSON

JONATHAN AIKEN

DAVID COCHRAN

*Selectmen*

*Londonderry, March 21st 1782.*

MET and opened the Town Meeting according to the Warrant, and first Chose Lieu't John Woodburn *Moderator*. 2d Voted to Raise two men for the *Ensuing Campaign* agreeable to the Resolves of Assembly.

*Voted* to exclude Sam'l Eayrs, John McCormick and John Mack, who were out in the three Years Service, from Paying any Part of the Bounty, which is to be given to the men to be Raised for the Ensuing Campaign.

4ly *Voted* to Hire Jonathan Aiken & James Mack to go into the Service and to have each of them 7£ 10s for Bounty, and to have for wages 2 Pounds Pr month which is to be paid in Clearing of Land att 2 Pounds Pr. acre and to be made fit for the Seed by the first of September 1783.

Pr. ROB'T McCORMICK, *Town Clerk.*

## STATE OF VERMONT

*County of Windham*

To EDWARD COX, *Constable* of the Town of Londonderry:

YOU are hereby Required in the name and by the Authority of the freemen of the State of Vermont to warn the Inhabitants of s'd Town to meet att the Grist Mill on Tuesday the Twenty third of this Instant April att One of the Clock in the afternoon to act on the following Articles, viz.

1st to Chuse a *Moderator* to Govern said meeting.

2d to see what the inhabitants of said Town will do in Regard of *Levying a Tax* on the Non resident Lands in said Town for the Purpose of Building houses for Publick Worship, School houses and Bridges, and to act upon any other articles that may be Thought Necessary when met, and this shall be your warrant given under our hands in Londonderry this Sixth Day of April in the year 1782.

JAMES ANDERSON

JONATHAN AIKEN

*Selectmen*

DAVID COCHRAN

*I have posted the above warrant agreeable to Law.*

Pr. me EDWARD COX, *Constable.*

*Londonderry, April ye 23d.* MEETING opened and Proceeded upon according to the Warrant. First voted and Chose Cap't Edward Aiken *Moderator*. *Voted* unanimously that a Tax be Levied to the amount of two Pence Pr. acre upon all the Non-resident Lands in said Londonderry. Meeting Dissolved.

## STATE OF VERMONT

*County of Windham.*

To EDWARD COX, *Constable:*

YOU are hereby Required in the name and by the Authority of the freemen of the aforesaid State to warn the Inhabitants of Londonderry to meet att the Grist Mill in s'd Town upon Thursday the Eighteenth



of the Instant att one o'Clock P.M. to act upon the following Articles, Viz. 1st to Choose a *Moderator* to govern s'd meeting. 2d to Choose a man to serve as one of the *Selectmen* of said Town as said Town is Deficient in their Quota of Selectmen.

3d to choose *Counters* to count with the Selectmen of said Town, and Collectors for two or three years back, and to act upon any other affairs that may appear necessary when met, and this shall be your warrant given under our hands.

*Londonderry July ye 6th 1782.*

DAVID COCHRAN

*Select-*

JONATHAN AIKEN

*men*

*I have posted the above warrant according to Law.*

Pr. me EDWARD COX, *Constable.*

July ye 18th, meeting opened & proceeded upon according to the warrant and first chose Cap't Edward Aiken *Moderator*.

2d made choice of John Cox for one of ye *Selectmen*. Meeting adjourned till ye first Tuesday of September.

NOTICE is hereby given to the Inhabitants of Londonderry that the *adjournment* of their Town meeting held upon the 18th of July is appointed to be att the Grist Mill upon Tuesday the third day of September att Nine O Clock A.M.

Pr ROB'T McCORMICK, *Town Clerk.*

*Lond'ry August 26th 1782.*

Proceeded upon the third Article of s'd warrant to choose *Counters*, viz. Edward Aiken, Esq., Joseph Mack.

## STATE OF VERMONT

*County of Windham*

To EDWARD COX, *Constable:*

YOU are hereby required in the name and by the Authority of the freemen of the aforesaid State to warn the Inhabitants of Londonderry to meet att the Grist Mill in said Town on Tuesday the 26th of Nov'r Ins't att one o Clock P.M. then and there to hold a Town meeting for the following Purpose, viz.

1st to choose a *Moderator* to govern s'd meeting.

2d To see if the Town will agree to choose a *Committee* to Receive and improve to the Best Advantage the money by tax levied on the Non resident Lands in said Town agreeable to an act of the General Assembly Passed at Charlestown October ye 18th 1781 and to act upon any other affairs that may be for the Benefit of the Town or shall be accounted Proper when met, and this shall be your warrant given under our hands at Londonderry this 15th of November A.D. 1782.

DAVID COCHRAN

JONATHAN AIKEN

JOHN COX

*Select-  
men*

*The Before Written Warrant Posted agreeable to Law.*

Pr. EDWARD COX, *Constable.*

*November ye 26th, meeting opened. Cap't Edward Aiken Chosen Moderator. Meeting adjourned until the 25th of December.*

## STATE OF VERMONT

*County of Windham*

To EDWARD COX, *Constable:*

YOU are hereby Required in the name and by the Authority of the freemen of the afforesaid State to warn the Inhabitants of Londonderry to meet att the Grist Mill in s'd Town on Thursday the 13th of March Next att one o Clock P.M. then and there to hold their annual town meeting for the following Purpose, viz., First, to Choose a *Moderator* to govern s'd meeting. 2dly to choose their *Town officers* for the Ensuing year. 3dly to see what method the town will take to raise money for *Preaching for the Ensuing year*. 4thly to choose *Counters* to Count with Collectors for two or three years Back. 5ly to Proceed upon the *adjournment* of their meeting held the 26th of Nov'r in the year 1782, and to act on any other articles that may be thought Necessary when met, and this shall be your warrant given under our hands this 21th Day of February 1783.

DAVID COCHRAN

JONATHAN AIKEN

JOHN COX

*Select-  
men*



*March ye 13th* meeting opened. James Patterson Chosen *Moderator*. *Town Clerk* Robert McCormick. *Selectmen*, John Patterson, Cap't Edward Aiken, Joseph Oughterson. *Listers*, Andrew Patterson, James Mack. *Constable*, John McCormick. *Grand juryman*, David Cochran. *Collector*, Daniel Aiken. *Surveyors of Highways*, Joseph Oughterson, John Cox, John Patterson, William Mack, Joseph Mack, Archibald Mack. *Counters*, Andrew Patterson, James Mack. A *Committee* Chosen to improve to the Best Advantage the tax levyed on the Nonresident Land, s'd *Committee* John Woodburn Cap't Edward Aiken James McCormick.

*Voted* that one Soldier Shall be Paid for his services in the Last Campaign, viz. from the time of his Entering into Service Until the time he was discharged. Meeting adjourned till the first Tuesday of April Next.

*Londonderry, April 1st 1783.*

MET and opened the Annual town meeting according to adjournment. *Voted* and chose Joseph Mack *Selectman* in the Room of Cap't Edward Aiken who Refused serving. *Voted* on the article of Raising money for hireing Preaching for the Ensuing year to Raise it by Subscription and them that Subscribe to give their Note for what they Subscribe to the Selectmen.

Meeting Adjourned till the third Tuesday of this Instant—at one O'Clock P.M. then to meet at this place.

In addition to the foregoing records of town meetings the manuscript contains what is one of the earliest records in existence relative to the town's highways, viz:

*A true Description of the Highway from the West Line of Londonderry to the East Line Adjoining Thomblinson* Beginning att the West Line at a Yellow Burch with a Crotch upon the top Marked with R-O on the East side standing in a Swamp then running South 18 Degrees East 92 Rods through the State's Land to Robert Miller's West Line

then Runing South 18 Degrees East 114 Rods upon William Mack's North Line then Running East 56 Rods through Robert Miller's Lot then Running through Robert Montgomery's Lot South 18 Degrees East 150 Rods then Running South East 20 Rods to Hugh Montgomery's West Line then Running South 18 Degrees East 24 Rods to West River then Running from West River through Moses Grimes' Land North E. 104 Rods then Running East 180 Rods through Henry Montgomery then Running East 60 Rods through the State's Land then Running South East 120 Rods through Daniel Millar's Land then Running South East 100 Rods through the State's Land then Running East 40 Rods in Robert Millar's Land then Running No. East 20 Rods then Running North 80 Rods then Running East 40 Rods then Running East 80 Rods through John Miller's Land then Running North East 100 Rods through Rachel Patterson's Land then Running North East 100 Rods through James Patterson's Land then Running Eastwardly 40 Rods then Running Eastwardly 60 Rods through John Patterson's Land then Running Eastwardly 560 Rods through the State's Land then Running Eastwardly 180 Rods through John Mack's Land then Running Eastwardly 180 Rods through James McCormick's Land then Running South East 136 Rods through John McCormick's Land then Running Eastwardly upon the North side of Sactions River so called 266 Rods in the State's Land to the East Line of Londonderry Adjoining Thomblinson.

Londonderry, February ye 4th 1783.

Received a Draft of the above mentioned Highway of ye Selectmen of the aforesaid Town.

*Examined & Recorded Pr. me*

ROBERT MCCORMICK, *Town Clerk.*

There is one more page of records in this manuscript but it is so badly torn, worn and soiled as to be illegible.

At the time of the recent discovery of this manuscript there were found with it three disconnected sheets of different size containing five pages of records similar to those in the stitched manuscript and deemed equally authentic, viz:

These are to Notify and warn the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Londonderry State of Vermont that are Qualified by Law to vote in town affairs that they assemble and meet at the grist



mill in sd town on Thursday the sixt Day of at ten o'Clock A.M. then and there to act on the following articles, Viz.

to Chuse a *moderator* to govern said meeting.

2ly to Chuse *town officers* for the ensuing year

3ly to see if the town will Do anything relative to haveing *Preaching* or paying preaching allready had.

4ly to see if the town will Do anything relative to *schooling*.

5ly to see if the town will agree to have our *town meetings* or any Part of them Nearer the East Part of the town.

6ly to act on any other business that the town at their meeting shall think Proper. Given under our hands this fifteenth Day of February Annoque Domini one thousand seven hundred and Eighty Eight.

EDWARD AIKEN	<i>Selectmen</i>
ABIEL EDDY	<i>of</i>
EDWARD AIKEN	<i>Londonderry</i>

March 6, 1788

met according to warrant.

*Voted* and Chose Edward Aiken Esqr. *moderator*. Chose Edward Aiken Esqr. *town Clerk*, Chose Abiel Eddy *town Clerk Protempery* Chose John Woodburn *first selectman* David Cochran 2d and Nehemiah Pierce 3d. Cpt Edward Aiken *treasurer* Chose Ebenr Patterson *town Constable*, *Listers* Joseph mack and Peter Aiken. Chose Archibald Mack *Collector*. Chose George Macmurphy *Lether sealer* Chose William Cox *grand juror* Chose George macmurphy *Pound Keeper* Chose Joseph oughterson *tythingman* Chose John Mack hayward Chose Joseph mack *fenceviewer*. *Surveyors of highways* Timothy Chase John mack Peter aiken Edward Cox Samuel thompson Moses Grimes David Cochran *Sealer of weights and measures* Edward Aiken Esqr.

*Voted* that swine shall be kept in enclosure. *Pettit Jurors* Edward Aiken Nehemiah how James hopkins Peter Aiken Daniel babbitt Joseph oughterson Daniel Aiken George macmurphy Abiel Eddy Saml Eayers Archi mack Ebenr Patterson

Chose Cpt Aiken Lieut Woodburn Abiel Eddy a *Committee* to take into consideration the 3d article in the warrant and report their opinion thereon

your Committee to home the 3d article in the warrant was refered beg leave to report that in their opinion there should be a true account taken of what we already owe, and that it should be known by the

inhabitants of the town and that there should be a List made out according to the several years it became Due and given to the Collector and that it should be Paid in butter salts Grain flax or Cloath, to be repositied at some certain Place agreed upon by the town and a Committee be Chosen to set a Price on said articles Likways so see that sd articles are Paid in accordingly sd articles to be Paid in as soon as Possable and that there be a Committee appointed hire Preaching for the Present year for such articles as has been already mentioned  
*N.B.* those that have Paid more money for Preaching the year Past than their Part shall have it allowed in the List.

*Abiel Eddy for Committee.*

*accepted* the above report and voted that the articles be repositied at Cpt Aikens *Voted* that the town meetings be held at Cpt aikens Chose Cpt Aiken, John Woodburn and Abiel Eddy a *Committee* to set a Price on the articles mentioned in the report of the Committee on the 3d article in the warrant.

Voted that all roads be Laid four rods wide.

*True Coppy from the minuts*

EDWARD AIKEN *Town Clerk*

## COUNTY OF WINDHAM

*State of Vermont*

*Londonderry Feb. 28, 1789*

This is to warn the Inhabitants of sd town that their *annual meeting* is on Tuesday the 17th of March at ten o Clock in the forenoon at Cpt Edward Aikens then and there to act on the following articels 1st to Chuse a *moderator* to Govern said meeting 2ly to Chuse *town Officers* 3ly to see what the town will Do relative to *Paying for what Preaching* they have had 4ly to see where the meetings will be Held and to act on any other articels that may be thought Necessary when met and this shall be your warrant. Given under our hands this twenty-eight Day of Feb. 1789 *Pr Selectmen*

DAVID COCHRAN  
 JOHN WOODBURN  
 NEHEMIAH PERCE



*Londonderry March 17: 1789*

THE annual meeting oppened according to the warrant Mr James hopkins Chosen *moderator* Edward Aiken *town Clerk* James hopkins as *Selectman* Edward Aiken Abiel Eddy *Ditto* Hugh montgomery *Constable* Peter Aiken Joseph mack Nehemiah Perce *Listers* Daniel Aiken *Collector* George macmurphy *Leather Sealer* Mr Eddy *Grand Juror* Joseph Oughterson *Pound Keeper* Cpt Aiken *tythingman* John Mack *hayward* Cpt Aiken John Woodburn David Cochran Timothy Chase *fence viewers* *Surveyors* hugh montgomery Samuel bickford Mr Eddy Nehm How Edward Aiken John Patterson Joseph oughterson John mcCor-mick Benjm Pearce *Sealer of weights and measures* Edward Aiken *Petit Jurors* Nathl Aiken Benj Perce Ebenezer Patterson John Woodburn Abiel Whitman James hopkins Nehi Perce Peter Aiken Daniel Aiken Abiel Eddy William Cox Cpt thompson

*True Coppy*

EDWARD AIKEN, *Town Clerk.*

*Londonderry February 27 1790*

NOTICE is hereby Given to the Inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in town meetings to meet at the Dwelling house of Cpt Edward Aiken in sd town on Tuesday the 16 day of March Next at ten o Clock in the forenoon to act on the following business (viz)

- 1st to Chuse a *moderator* to Govern sd meeting.
- 2ly Chuse *Town Officers* for the current year
- 3ly to see Iff they will Prevent *swine* from running at Large
- 4ly to act on any other matters that may be thought Necessary when met

JAMES HOPKINS

EDWARD AIKEN

ABIEL EDDY

*Select-*

*men*

*Londonderry March 16, 1790*

THE annual meeting opened agreeable to warning. Lut. James hopkins Hopkins Chosen *moderator* Edward Aiken *town Clerk* Edward Aiken Joseph mack and Mr Eddy *selectmen* Cpt Edward Aiken *town Treasurer* John Patterson *Constable* Joseph mack and Peter Aiken *Listers* John

Cox *collector* George Macmurphy *Leather Sealer* Cpt Samuel thompson  
*Grandjurors*, William Cox *Poundkeeper* James hopkins *Tythingman*  
 John Cox *hayward* John Woodburn & Mr. Eddy *fence vewers* *Surveyors*  
 John Woodburn James patterson John Williams Benj Cole James hop-  
 kins Ebenr Patterson Saml Bickford Jess Cole Emer hodge David  
 Cochran Saml Thomson Moses Grimes. Edward Aiken *sealer of weights*  
*&c. Petit Jurs* Joseph mack David Cochran Mr. Eddy Mr. Patterson  
 Benj. Pearce John Cox Peter aiken John woodburn Ira Babbitt Nathl  
 Aiken Daniel Aiken James Eastman *Vote* on the Last article that the  
 vote Past March 1788 relative to Paying for Preaching be Persued this  
 Currant year and it be Paid in to Cpt Aikens by the first of January  
 Next and that Mr. Eddy John Woodburn & Edward Aiken be a *Co-*  
*mittee* to set a Price on the articles *Voted* that there be six Days Preach-  
 ing hired this year and that the Pay shall be the same as in the article of  
 the year 1788 and that Mr. Eddy Mr. Woodburn and Edward Aiken  
 be a Committee to Procure Preaching. *Voted* to meet at Cpt Edward  
 Aikens for Preaching  
*True Coppy*

Pr EDWARD AIKEN *town clerk*

*Wednesday 23 of March 1792* at the adjournment of the annual meet-  
 ing *Voted* that there be a tax laid this year of one half Penny on the  
 Pound to Defrey town Charges and that the town Clerk Purchas a  
 town Book for recording Deeds in. *Voted* on the 3 artichel that what  
 money is raisd this year for Paying for Preaching shall be raisd by  
 subcription *Voted* that Edward Aiken Abiel Eddy & James Hopkins  
 be a *Committee* to Engage Preaching and that the money shall be Paid  
 in to sd *Committee*.

EDWARD AIKEN *town Clk.*

(This last or third loose sheet also contains a memorandum as to a meet-  
 ing of the "fifth School District in Windham," held Dec. 2, 1796.)



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# Genealogical Sketches

## Foreword

MANY of the families who early settled in town, other than those named in these sketches, have been omitted though their work and influence in both the earlier and later days more than warrant their inclusion therein. Their omission is to be taken as no indication that they did not fully merit like notice as well as those which are included. As to many, or most, of such, obtainable data was and is so fragmentary and disconnected that no record now possible to make would seem of value or interest.

These sketches, which we cannot claim or hope to be without some errors, are the result of painstaking examination of public records, Histories of New England towns, manuscript and printed genealogical material, old records in family bibles, of much correspondence, and of interviews, almost numberless, with aged residents and former residents of the town; and they are believed to be substantially correct.

When we consider the fact that for about three generations after the date of the original settlement there was no regular registration of any vital statistics required by law in our State, and that death has long been busy among those once possessed of personal knowledge of desired and necessary information demanded in such work, the magnitude of the task of preparing such sketches must be readily recognized.

## Aiken

**N**o history of Londonderry, and no series of family sketches connected with the town could be warranted in omitting the Aiken family. The Aikens who were among the earliest settlers of Kent were each named Edward, and were cousins. They were grandsons of that Edward Aiken who came over from the North of Ireland about 1722 and settled in Londonderry, N. H., from which town both these grandsons removed to Kent, then claimed to be in New York territory. In some of the records it is difficult, and in some practically impossible, to determine which of the two is referred to; though, for the most part, they are distinguished as "Deacon Edward" and "Capt. Edward."

While James Rogers stands, in a sense, as the founder and father of the ancient town by reason of his having acquired title to all its area prior to any permanent settlement therein, yet to Deacon Edward Aiken must be given credit for doing the greater work of developing its growth in matters municipal, social, political and religious. None more than he guided and directed its earliest activities along these and all these lines. He was the oldest of the twelve children of Nathaniel and Margaret (Cochran) Aiken, born Nov. 18, 1727, and married Jan. 25, 1752, Margaret Woodburn, daughter of John Woodburn who emigrated from Ireland to Londonderry, N. H., and she was sister, of the half blood, of John Woodburn, one of the earliest settlers of that part of Kent which later became Windham, and of David Woodburn who married Margaret Clark and was the maternal grandfather of Horace Greeley; once the famous editor of the New York Tribune.

As early as the spring of 1772, and possibly in the preceding year, he was in Kent, busy clearing his "pitched" farm and erecting a log house to which to move his family. While engaged in this work he fell ill and his "hired man," Joseph Oughterson, who was with him sent word to his wife at their New Hampshire home as to the Deacon's condition.

She came to him on horseback, it is said with her youngest child in her arms, traversing much of the distance by indistinct paths marked by blazed trees. She was the first woman among those early settlers to take up household duties in the township and, her husband having recovered, soon returned, as she had come, to Londonderry, N. H.



His was the first log house in that part of Kent which became Windham and, later, he erected the first frame house in that territory. When he brought his family to this new home, in 1773, he came with a daughter of twelve years and his son Peter, aged ten, on foot, while his wife and some or all the other children, assisted by Joseph Oughterson, came on horseback with bedding and other indispensable articles strapped upon the horses.

Deacon Aiken was a large, strong man in every sense, of impressive presence, sterling character and a natural leader of men. This was early manifested by the prominent position he took in the affairs of the town and continued to hold during life. He was the first Town Clerk of Kent and the first representative from the town to the Vermont Legislature, holding that office by successive re-elections from 1778 to 1789 and again from 1791 to 1794 the town being unrepresented in 1790. Previous to that time he had represented the people of Kent in various meetings and conventions during the New York controversies, and was a member of the Convention that adopted the first Constitution of the new State, at Windsor in 1777, though the records do not show that he was present and voting at the adoption of that instrument. In 1780, he was one of the three persons authorized by the Vermont Legislature to sell and convey, for the use of the State, Colonel Rogers' lands in Kent, which was then, for the first time, named Londonderry. He continued to hold this trust and, with his associates, Samuel Fletcher and Joseph Tyler, to convey these lands in the interest of the State until the legislature directed the return of the unsold lands to James Rogers, son of the original proprietor, in 1795.

He was one of the delegates to the Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States on Vermont's admission to the Union, and signed the "ratification."

The inhabitants of Kent, in those days of strife over the jurisdiction of the territory now Vermont, had not occasion, as did occupants of the "New Hampshire Grants," to fear the efforts of New York officials to dispossess them, since their title rested on the grant from the Governor of that Colony. Notwithstanding this fact, as the representative of Kent, Deacon Aiken made common cause with the neighboring people of "The Grants" and consistently joined in the efforts to establish the independence of the territory which became Vermont. Upon the division of the ancient township his homestead became a part of Windham and most of the members of his immediate family were residents of that portion of the original town so long as they remained within the old boundaries of Kent.

He died in 1808 in the house he had built on the homestead farm by him selected, cleared and developed from the virgin forest which clothed its slopes when he made choice of the plot; and his body was buried in the little public cemetery lying near and in view of that home.

His children were: Nathaniel, Dec. 18, 1753; Mary, Aug. 19, 1756; Sus-

annah, May 19, 1758; Naomi, Aug. 9, 1761; Peter, May 8, 1763; John, Mar. 28, 1765; David, Sept. 3, 1757; and James, Mar. 18, 1770.

NATHANIEL married Betsey (Elizabeth) Clark and had eight children: Mary, Nov. 27, 1778; Margaret, Mar. 16, 1780; Calvin, Mar. 11, 1782; Jesse, Feb. 27, 1784; David, May 14, 1786; Samuel Clark, Sept. 21, 1790; Betsey, June 11, 1793, and Edward, Oct. 15, 1796.

MARY married David Cochran and lived in Londonderry. (See *Cochran Family Sketch*.)

Of *Susannah* and *Naomi* no further information is found.

PETER married Elizabeth Goodhue and lived with his parents on the old homestead, caring for them in their old age and until they died. His children were: Eliza, Dec. 21, 1798; Henry L., Nov. 15, 1800; Edward R., Mar. 25, 1803; Laura M., May 7, 1805; Maryann, Nov. 11, 1807; and Josiah G., Jan. 23, 1812.

JOHN married Anna Griggs and resided in Windham until his death. He was one of the most prominent men of his generation in that community and held various offices in local matters; was a member of the state legislature, representing "Londonderry and Windham" at a time when (despite the constitutional provision that "each inhabited town" should be entitled to a representative) only one representative was allowed the two towns; the first representative from Windham when each town was allowed separate representation; the first postmaster at Windham, and for a time was Assistant Judge of Windham County Court. His children were: David, Mar. 22, 1793; Joseph, Oct. 7, 1794 (died Apr. 2, 1795); Edward, Nov. 4, 1796; Joseph (second of that name), Dec. 26, 1798; Nathaniel G., Jan. 26, 1802; Caroline, Jan. 9, 1804, and John, May 13, 1807.

DAVID died at the age of eighteen years and is buried at Lowell Lake cemetery.

JAMES was, like his brother John, a man of influence and prominence in town, having represented "Londonderry and Windham" in the legislature and also been Assistant Judge of the County Court. He conveyed his real estate in Windham in 1808 and, about that time, removed from town. It is said he later became a resident of Pennsylvania and spent the rest of his life in that state. No further knowledge of his history or of his family is found.

Information as to the families of his brothers, Nathaniel, Peter and John, is far from being satisfactory but addition to what we have seems now beyond reach. More is learned of Nathaniel's descendants than of the others though of his three daughters nothing is known beyond the dates of birth and that Mary and Margaret are said to have died in 1853.

CALVIN married Sally Yearley, Sept. 15, 1807, and died in 1841. No more is known of his history.



JESSE married Lydia Lawton, Nov. 17, 1819, and died in 1860. He is said to have had a daughter who married Darius Williams of Chester.

DAVID was twice married; first to Rebecca French, who bore him a son, William Leavitt, July 16, 1817, and died leaving no other child. His second wife was Zibia Britnall, by whom he had three sons and five daughters: Jason, June 27, 1824; George Clark, Dec. 15, 1825; Rebecca Zibia, June 27, 1827; Edward Henry, Jan. 31, 1829; Mary Elizabeth, Jan. 12, 1831; Margaret Adelia, Sept. 20, 1832; Martha Amelia, May 15, 1834, and Susan Hall, Feb. 2, 1837.

WILLIAM LEAVITT married Fanny Wyman and they had five children: Charles C., George W., Anna A., Edward Webster, and Frank E. None of the sons by the second marriage ever married, Jason and Edward H. having died in boyhood and George C. at the age of 27, in Florida.

REBECCA Z. married Calvin Hinds and died childless.

MARY E. married Aaron Edson and lived for years on the old homestead of her father, in Windham, where she had a daughter, Clara May, and a son, Delbert H.

MARGARET ADELIA married Ransom Sawyer, lived in Muscatine, Iowa, and had two sons and two daughters.

MARTHA AMELIA married Charles Heald and lived in Canton, Ill. She had two sons and four daughters.

SUSAN H. married Dr. Henry Chapin and lived in Cambridgeport, Vt. She had two sons and two daughters.

All the sons of William Leavitt lived to maturity and had families. Charles C. married Emma Daggett, had Albert Leavitt, Guy Delbert, Julia E., Dana C., and Wallace L., and died Dec. 9, 1911.

GUY DELBERT married Villa M. Cates and had Lyle C., Ray D., Frances E., Ruby L. and Wallace L.

JULIA E. married Frank C. Rose, had two daughters, and died Mar. 7, 1923.

DANA C. married Flora E. Riendiau and had Charles A., Maynard D., Myrtie E., Ralph E., Ruth M. and Louis E.

GEORGE W. married Celia J. Nichols and had four children: Carrie E., Florence S., Charles H. and Fred W.

EDWARD WEBSTER married Myra Cook and had five children, all of whom lived to maturity and married.

ANNIE M. married Ira G. Miller; Ralph Edward married Mary Brown.

ETHEL ADDIE married John Lyons; George D. married Beatrice Howard, and Roger M. married Mary J. Turner.

*Frank E.* married Lucy Page, who died childless, and later married Florence M. Woodward, by whom he had a daughter, Maud Emily, who married Ray E. Jackson.

SAMUEL C., fourth son of Nathaniel, graduated from Middlebury College in 1814, later studied theology at Andover Theological Seminary and was regularly ordained. He preached in Utica, N. Y. about twenty years and then went to Cleveland, Ohio.

EDWARD, Nathaniel's youngest son, was also a graduate of Middlebury College, class of 1815, became a clergyman and preached for a time in Utica, N. Y., until failing health led to his seeking a milder climate. He went to Cuba for some months and thence to Tallahassee, Fla. where he died at the age of thirty-five years.

But scanty information has been found as to the descendants of Peter and Betsey (Goodhue) Aiken and all is lost as to the second generation.

*Eliza* married Silas Barrett and had five children.

*Henry L.* was a graduate of Middlebury College, class of 1821, and married Emily L. Robins, by whom he had three children: Edward, Henry and Ellen K. He resided in Saratoga, N. Y.

*Edward Rodney* married Caroline Bliss and succeeded to the title and occupancy of the old homestead of his grandfather, Dea. Edward. Here he remained until his death. He left no child, and by will provided that, after his widow's life estate in the farm, the same should be divided between two named missionary societies, as was done.

*Laura M.* (sometimes written Margaret L.) joined the Choctaw Mission in 1853 and gave not only her time and efforts but the greater part of her property to that mission, remaining there until death.

*Maryann* married William Arms and moved to "the west," living in various places in Wisconsin and Illinois.

*Josiah G.* is said to have married Emma Parker, of Putney, and to have had six children; and this constitutes our knowledge of him and his descendants.

Of the children of John and Anna (Griggs) Aiken little more than the dates of birth have been found. David, the oldest, died June 30, 1814 and is buried in the public cemetery near Windham Center, where an inscribed stone marks his grave. There are other graves in what appears to be the family plot there but no stone marks any of them.

The town records show the birth of a son, David Lewis, to Joseph Aiken in 1825, and he was, doubtless, a grandson of John and Anna.

It has been said that John and Anna, his wife, removed to Pennsylvania where he died; and that his brother James married a girl from Putney and moved to Boston, Mass.

Another account or tradition states that it was James, instead of John, who removed to Pennsylvania, but at this time no clue is found leading to a determination of the truth of either of these statements.

"CAPTAIN" EDWARD AIKEN was a son of William, and grandson of Edward Aiken who emigrated from Ireland to Londonderry, N. H.



He came to Kent a year or two later than his cousin Deacon Edward and settled on the border of the "Great Pond," now known as Lowell Lake, where he cleared a farm and, in connection with the "Deacon," erected the first mill in town, at the outlet of the pond. Later, with his son Daniel, he built the first mill on West River in this town, practically on the same site now occupied by the mill of William Brothers.

He was one of the five petitioners for the grant of the tract later called "Aiken's Gore," at the southwest corner of the town, being the southerly end of a tract formerly known as Virgin Hall; was one of the grantees, and the only one of the petitioners so named, in the grant by the State Legislature. Like "Deacon Edward," but in less degree, he was one of the most prominent men in town, and remained a resident until his death, Dec. 15, 1790, in the 63d year of his age. He was buried in the family plot in what later became a public cemetery, once a part of his homestead farm, now called "Lowell Lake Cemetery." As to his descendants our information is but scanty and unsatisfactory. A few years after his death a Town Meeting was called "at the house of Mrs. Martha Aiken"; and it seems practically certain that this was his old home and she was his widow.

He had three sons, Jonathan, William and Daniel; and there is record of the marriage of one Edward Aiken and Elizabeth Perry, "both of Londonderry," July 10, 1809, and there seems to be ground for assuming that he, too, was a son of Capt. Edward. Real estate records indicate that there were also two daughters: Jenny and Mary, but positive assertion cannot be made as to the last three named, nor is the order of birth of his children known.

*Jonathan* was one of the two men whom the town, at a meeting on March 21, 1782, voted to hire "to go into the service" (in Revolutionary War); and appears to have succeeded his father in the ownership of the old homestead for, in 1798, the town voted to accept a gift from him of one acre of land "for a Burying place, where the Ground has Been Broke for that purpose," which tract, though not described by any definite boundaries, was a part of his father's old farm in which members of the family and others had been buried.

Previous to this time, and at the date of his father's death, he appears to have been a resident of Manchester, Vt., for he is so described in a deed executed by him a few days after Capt. Edward's death, when recorded deeds indicate his children made partition of a part, at least, of his real estate. Later he again had his home in Londonderry and was the first "Inn-keeper" here, his "Inn" standing near the site now occupied by "Hotel Wantastiquet" at the North Village.

In 1800, he sold practically the whole territory now embraced in that village to one Miltimore who succeeded him as proprietor of the inn and also of the mill which his father and brother had established there.



During some part of the time he managed and operated that mill he had his home at the farm about a mile above the South Village, called the "Lower Aiken place," now occupied by Leon Jaquith.

It is said his first wife was Nancy McCormick, of Windham, who died leaving two sons. Later he married Margaret Jameson, of Manchester, Vt. Further knowledge of him and of his descendants is lacking.

*William* married Nancy Witherspoon and lived on the farm later known as the Holland Howard place, now abandoned, in the northeast part of the town. They had two children: Edward (familarly known as "Ned"), and Mary. Upon the death of his brother Daniel they took their nephew, John, into their family. His son, "Ned," married — Stiles and had a daughter Nancy, who married Henry Stockwell, of Brattleboro. His daughter Mary was a deaf mute and never married. She spent her life in Londonderry.

*Daniel* married Mary Jameson, of Manchester, Vt. and had seven children: Edward, Mar. 18, 1797; James, Dec. 9, 1801; Daniel, July 20, 1803; Jonathan, Oct. 22, 1805; Mary, Mar. 14, 1808; William, July 20, 1810, and John, Feb. 9, 1813. Both Daniel, the father, and his wife died in 1813, but few days intervening between their respective deaths, and the family of children was broken up. Their home was at the "Stone Chimney place" westerly of the Geo. M. Tuttle farm, on the old abandoned highway once leading to Winhall Hollow, and their graves in the "Middle-town Cemetery."

*Edward Aiken* and Hannah Day were married Oct. 29, 1820 and the groom was, as seems practically certain, son of Daniel and Mary (Jameson), both of whom appear to have survived him, as did his wife and a young son, Warren, who became a ward of Lewis Howard, husband of his aunt Mary.

Nothing more definite is learned of his history.

*Jonathan*, son of Daniel, went to Boston, while yet a boy, married and lived there, being for many years a member of the police force of that city. He had four children: Daniel, George, Frank and Caroline but none of them ever lived in Londonderry.

*James* married Esther Richardson, who bore him four children: Albert, Alonzo, Walter and Martha (order uncertain). His second wife was Mrs. Lovina Brown. There was no child of this second marriage, and James remained a resident of Londonderry until his death, May 17, 1882. His son Albert went to Boston, married there and had a family of nine children; of whom four were Charles Francis, D.D., George Edward, Lucy Ellen and Cora Frances. Most, if not all, the others died quite young. Alonzo and Walter enlisted in Co. C., 6th Vt. Vols. in the Civil War. Alonzo died of disease while in service and Walter served a little over three years, returned to Londonderry on discharge, later married Eliza A. May, moved to Dover Vt. and there died without issue.



*Martha* married John T. Landman and resided on a farm in this town, where all her children were born. These were: Emma, married Edward Young and died in Wardsboro; Fred U., Superintendent of Schools at Wolfboro, N. H.; Elbert A., a physician at Plaistow, N. H.; Carrie, who died, unmarried, in Londonderry, and Nina, who married Reverend Thomas Scammon and lives at Wolfboro, N. H.

*Mary* married Lewis Howard of Londonderry and spent her life in town. Her children were: Caroline, who married Samuel Albee and moved "out west"; Eliza, married Sem Pierce, Jr. and lived here until her death (see *Pierce Family Sketch*); Lewis Kirk, who went to Chelmsford, Mass. and there married and remained till his death; Elnora, who married Doctor A. B. Bixby with whom she lived in this town for many years, moving then to Poultney, Vt. where she died. She had a son who died in infancy, and a daughter, Salome, who married Doctor Ross of Bennington, Vt.; George A., who married Henrietta Cole and died without issue; and Delia E., who married Hon. James L. Martin, had two sons and a daughter, none of whom survived childhood, and died in this town.

*Daniel* evidently survived his father and died unmarried. In 1837, his brothers, James, Jonathan, William and John, joined in a quit-claim deed to the husband of their sister Mary, conveying their interest in a tract of fifty acres described as "set off in the division of Captain Daniel Aiken's estate to Daniel Aiken, his son, and which descended to us (grantors) by heirship on the death of said Daniel Aiken, later of Londonderry."

No reference being made to their brother Edward indicates that he had previously, and prior to the division of the estate, deceased.

*William* is said to have gone, following his parents' death, to Westmoreland, N. H. into the family of one Alexander Vesey, by whom he was adopted. He married Eunice Vesey, of Westmoreland, and remained a resident of that town thereafter. His children were: Cordelia, Frances, Mary Caroline, William C., Charles L., Clara E. and Herbert B., none of whom ever became residents of Londonderry.

*John* was a nursing infant when his father and mother died and was taken by his uncle William, and aunt Nancy (Witherspoon) with whom he lived for a time, but for how long is not known. He married Rosamond Hall and had two children: Hiland, who died in his youth, and Ann R., who married Charles W. Chase whom she and a daughter, Rose A., survived. Both Ann R. and Rose A. died here, on the same place where John, the father and grandfather had died Feb. 10, 1890.



## Allen

The Allen name was early represented in Londonderry by two families, very probably of the same original stock though they made no claim of relationship here.

In 1793, one Joseph Allen took deed of land in Londonderry, being on the road now leading from the top of "Stowell Hill" to Clarksville, later known at different dates as the Amos Davis place and as the Leonard Howard farm. In the following year (1774) his son Nehemiah purchased an adjoining tract. They both came from Taunton, Mass. immediately or very soon after the dates mentioned and both lived on the farm covered by these two purchases until their respective deaths. Joseph's wife was Mary ("Molly") ——— and they had other children than Nehemiah, but how many cannot be learned. It is said that Joseph and his wife both died in 1813, victims of the "spotted fever" which was epidemic in this locality that year, but no records of their death is to be found.

Nehemiah married Lurana ———, evidently prior to his coming to town, and they had a son, Ethan, born there Nov. 18, 1796. Nehemiah held various town offices and at the time of his death, in 1800, was collector of taxes. His widow, as administratrix of his estate, was licensed by the Probate Court to convey to his father a part of the farm upon which they had lived, and which they cleared, conditioned, as set forth in the license, "upon the said Joseph Allen & his wife Molley acquitting all their right and title to the remainder of said farm." She made the conveyance authorized and returned to Taunton where she was residing in 1803. There is no evidence or probability that she ever resumed residence here and nothing more is known as to her son Ethan, nor in fact as to others of this family of Allens, save that sundry deeds on record clearly indicate that Joseph and Mary had sons Noah, Ira and Ephraim; the two first named having been residents for a short time in town but Ephraim, though once a land owner here, is not believed to have ever resided in Town. Noah was a resident landowner in 1808 and so remained until 1816 when he conveyed his land to his brother Ira. Beyond this no more is known about him. Ira continued as a resident landowner until the fall of 1820 when he moved to "Upper Canada."

The other, or second, family in Londonderry bearing the name Allen likewise had a Joseph as its first representative here. He, too, came from Taunton, Mass., or its vicinity, according to the claims of his descendants. He purchased land in the extreme northwest part of the town, taking deed Feb. 18, 1803 in which instrument he is described as "Joseph Allen of Londonderry." This land, or the larger part of the tract, remained in his



family for three generations and until the death of his grandson Serrel Allen, by whose name the farm is still locally known.

Here Joseph, promptly following his purchase, began with his own unaided hands the clearing of the virgin forest and established his home in a log house built in what is now the pasture lot a few rods southerly from the present farm buildings.

The family traditions from his day down through all the years have held that he was kin to Ethan Allen, the renowned leader of the "Green Mountain Boys," and while records fail to afford positive proof of the claimed relationship, enough is found to warrant belief that the claims and traditions of the family in this respect are well founded.

In 1907, the ALLEN MEMORIAL was published by Orrin Peer Allen of Palmer, Mass. Therein were traced the descendants, or a part of them, of Samuel Allen who was a resident of Windsor, Conn. in 1640 and was one of two brothers who came to Chelmsford, Mass. in 1632.

This Samuel had a son Nehemiah who had a son Samuel and the last named had a son Joseph. This Joseph married Mary Baker and had a family of six sons and two daughters; Ethan and Ira being respectively the oldest and the youngest, and both numbered among the fathers and founders of Vermont. From Heber, the third of Joseph's sons, these Londonderry Allens claim to have sprung. He was born in Cornwall, Conn., Oct. 4, 1743, and married Sarah Owen, of Salisbury, Conn. Mar. 17, 1768. In 1771 he removed from Salisbury to Poultney, Vt. and was the first Town Clerk of that town. He rendered worthy service, both civil and military, to the "Grants" and the state of Vermont in its infancy, and died at Poultney, Apr. 10, 1782, having had five children: Heber, Sarah, Joseph, Lucy and Heman.

Of these children ALLEN MEMORIAL gives but the slightest record. It gives the date of Heber's birth as June 16, 1769; that of Sarah as "1771"; as to Lucy only her name appears, while the birth of Heman is given as Feb. 23, 1779. In the case of Joseph the only statement made is: "History unknown." This Joseph "fits in" with the traditions of the local family, dating far back of the publication of the MEMORIAL and is fully believed to be the same Joseph Allen who is termed "Junior" in the deed of 1803 before mentioned. The term "junior" was, doubtless, given for purpose of distinguishing him from that Joseph who had then been here for about ten years and lived but a mile distant from the land conveyed, and had no reference to actual relationship between them.

This second Joseph spent the remainder of his life on the farm which he had here cleared, dying May 15, 1855 at the age of 83 years. This would fix the date of his birth as in 1772, a date in harmony with the claim that he was the next born child of Heber after Sarah, born in 1771. Coupled with the fact that he told his grandchildren that they had relationship to the



renowned Ethan, this seems to well warrant the belief, if not the assertion, that the relationship suggested actually existed.

His wife was Abigail Cobb and their children were: Mercy, May 30, 1796; Serrel, Jan. 31, 1798, and Joseph, Sept. 10, 1806, all of whom he survived.

*Mercy* married John Davis and died in town, in 1855, childless.

*Serrel* married Dolly Richardson and had a daughter, Abigail, and two children who died in very early infancy. He died Jan. 21, 1829 in this town.

*Joseph* married Betsey Adams of Rockingham and they had four daughters and one son: Hannah, July 4, 1827; Serrel, Dec. 12, 1829; Nancy, Oct. 15, 1831; Lucy, Mar. 30, 1836; Mercy, Mar. 19, 1842.

*Hannah* married Hiram Davis and had a large family. They removed a little later than 1870 to Nebraska.

*Serrel* married Rachel C. Reynolds by whom he had two children: Joseph, born May 15, 1851, and Alice M., born July 8, 1859; and after her death married Addie M. (Stowell) Marden, widow of Frank H. Marden, and occupied the old Allen homestead until his death in 1905.

*Nancy* married Gilbert Davis, but had no children.

*Lucy* married Alvah Warren Pierce and had a large family. She lived at the home of a daughter on the farm, long her homestead, where her husband died, and is said to have then been the oldest person in town. (See *Pierce Family Sketch*.)

*Mercy* married Moses Barrett and had four children.

Joseph, son of Serrel and Rachel (Reynolds), married Lizzie Hilliard by whom he had two sons: Joseph W. and Gilbert Serrel. He died in this town, Jan. 31, 1881.

Joseph W. went "out West" about the time he attained his majority and the family have since had no knowledge of him.

Gilbert Serrel died unmarried.

Alice M. married Winfield S. Richardson.

## Arnold

SAMUEL ARNOLD is said to have come to Londonderry in 1791. He came here under an engagement to survey lands in this town and vicinity and was so well pleased with the place and its prospects that he soon after established his home here and remained until his death, May 23, 1839. He was born Jan. 13, 1766 and was the son of David and Phebe (Pratt) Arnold, of Taunton, Mass. He built his first house, a log structure, near the top of the hill west of the present North Village, now often called "Arnold Hill." It



stood north of the present highway leading to Peru, and in the pasture back of the school-house that crowns the hill.

Feb. 21, 1792 he married Nancy, daughter of Jeremiah and Submit Wheeler, of Rehoboth, Mass. The exact date of their settling in the new home here cannot be fixed but it is probable that it was in the summer or fall of 1793, as Mrs. Arnold is said to have come hither on horseback bringing her oldest daughter, then an infant, in her arms.

The log house was occupied for several years and then the frame house, still standing, was erected, a little farther to the north on the westerly side of the highway leading from the top of the hill to Landgrove, and became their home which was occupied until his decease. Theirs was the first house in that part of the town though others soon settled in the same neighborhood. Mrs. Arnold survived her husband many years, dying in the old homestead Oct. 13, 1865, aged 95 years.

In her later years she was wont to rehearse her experiences in the earlier days when the log house was her home, telling of the many occasions when, frightened by prowling wild beasts, she fled with the children to the loft in the house, formed by a flooring of poles laid across the top of the log walls, and drawing up the ladder which gave access thereto.

On one occasion she had just prepared a kettle of "hasty pudding" for the family dinner when she was startled by seeing a hungry looking bear coming to the open door. Seizing the children she hurried them before her to the refuge in the loft and then watched bruin's proceedings by peering through the spaces in the pole flooring. The bear's stay was short and its departure somewhat hurried. Seeing the kettle of mush, or pudding, standing on the floor before the fireplace the bear promptly thrust in its nose with the evident purpose of appropriating the dinner of his unwilling hostess. The pudding being still hot, a single mouthful sufficed and the bear, growling and shaking its head, fled back into the woods.

An unpublished manuscript genealogy of the family, which represents the work of years by one of the American members, makes claim of tracing an unbroken line of descent of Samuel Arnold from Sir Roger Arnold, who was, as is said, the first to assume or adopt the surname Arnold.

Sir Roger, the son of "Arnholt of Arnhold," Vichen, Wales, was born in 1462. This claim, while perhaps true, seems in some of the links of the chain to be based on conjecture or probabilities not definitely or positively established. However the fact may be respecting this matter, it is established that Joseph Arnold came to this country in June, 1635, settled in Braintree, Mass. and, April 8, 1648, married Rebecca Curtis of that town. From them descended Samuel named above, he being of the fifth generation of Arnolds in America.

He early became prominent in town affairs and, at various times, held nearly all the important town offices. He was a man of natural force both



intellectually and physically, active, energetic and endowed with the power to readily obtain and thereafter hold the confidence and esteem not only of his neighbors but of all with whom he came in contact in practical affairs of business. He was the seventh Town Clerk, having been elected in 1799, and held the office for six years. The records during his term of office are more complete than during most of the time preceding and much of the few succeeding years, but are as difficult to read as any in the books. He was surely not skilled in penmanship. He represented the town in the Legislature of 1798 and also by successive elections from 1805 to 1809.

Upon the division of the town and in matters therewith connected he took a leading part on behalf of the portion which still retained the name of Londonderry. In fact his power and influence in these and kindred matters gave him the appellation of "King Arnold."

In time of adversity and affliction his townsmen ever knew they could rely upon him and his wife for all needed aid, so far as in their power to give. During the severe epidemic which swept over the community in 1813 the ministrations and assistance of "Squire Arnold" and "Aunt Nancy" especially endeared them to the afflicted families.

Eleven children were born to them: Phebe, Jan. 13, 1793; Nancy, June 12, 1794; Elizabeth, Dec. 5, 1795; Samuel Pratt, Feb. 15, 1798; Sally, March 6, 1800; Jeremiah W., May 2, 1802; Ann Frances, Apr. 1, 1804; Submit, Nov. 5, 1806; Mary, Sept. 8, 1808; David, Mar. 17, 1811, and Caroline, May 5, 1813.

*Phebe* married John Cox, removed to Wyoming, N. Y. and there died Oct. 18, 1854.

*Nancy* married John Tuthill and lived in Vergennes, Ill., where she died Jan. 1, 1851.

*Elizabeth* married Amos E. Hutchins of Londonderry. She died Jan. 4, 1879.

*Samuel Pratt* married Betsey Hadley of Londonderry, was first postmaster at Londonderry, Vt., removed to Ellicottville, N. Y., where he died in 1868. His children were: Samuel, — 1823; Edward G., May 26, 1826; George L., Jan. 25, 1829; Mary Emeline, Nov. 5, 1831; Caroline E., Aug. 23, 1834, and Charles Shepard, Feb. 9, 1838.

*Sally* married Amos Davis and they lived on the farm near the top of Stowell hill on the Landgrove road, later owned by Leonard Howard, and she died at Londonderry, June 6, 1867.

*Jeremiah W.* married Betsey E. Stowell, of Londonderry, and spent his life in this town. He was a physician of the Thompsonian school and practiced through the countryside until his decease, June 4, 1879. His children were: Lydia J., Aug. 13, 1828; Mary J., Jan. 14, 1831; Nancy, Feb. 11, 1832; Luther Stowell, Aug. 28, 1834; Samuel H., Mar. 2, 1837; Louisa I., Nov. 23, 1844, and Elbert W., Dec. 19, 1847.



*Ann Frances* never married. She went into the family of Jacob Leroy, of Leroy, N. Y., first as governess and later remained as companion until her decease at which time she was upwards of 80 years of age.

*Submit* married Aaron P. Leland. They lived in Landgrove, Vt., and later in Cleveland, Ohio, where she died Aug. 7, 1872. She bore seven sons and one daughter, and her sons later became widely noted as hotel keepers.

*Mary* married Mason Clough. Their home was first in Andover, Vt., and at later date in Black Earth, Wis., where she died.

*David* married Lydia Dudley, daughter of Gen. Peter Dudley, of Peru, Vt., and died at Londonderry, where he had spent his whole life, Jan. 15, 1881. He was a prominent man, having been a member of both branches of the state legislature, Assistant Judge of the County Court, and was Postmaster from 1861 to the time of his death. He was a member of the County Bar and for many years practiced in the courts, but his chief business was as proprietor of the "Arnold Store" which he held and managed to the end of his life. His children were: George J., May 28, 1835; Charles E., Jan. 8, 1837; Lydia Ann Frances, Apr. 26, 1839; Samuel D., Mar. 26, 1841; David Pratt, Apr. 9, 1843; Lucy Caroline (written by her later Carrie L.), June 29, 1845; Helen W., Sept. 12, 1847, and Mary E., Oct. 19, 1849.

*Caroline* married John Harding Leland of Londonderry and removed to Kansas. After the decease of her husband she married Ziba Dodd Wood and remained in Kansas until her death.

#### Children of SAMUEL PRATT ARNOLD

*Samuel* married Joan Chamberlain. He was a physician and had two sons. He died Feb. 9, 1869.

*Edward G.* married Laura P. Young and they had two children both of whom died in infancy.

*George L.* married Julia Riddle, had one child and died Jan. 29, 1858.

*Mary Emeline* married Henry H. Beach, and died in July, 1873.

*Caroline E.* married Chauncy J. Fox, and died in May, 1894.

*Charles S.* married Adeline Fraser by whom he had two children, and for second wife he married Emma Lawton.

#### Children of JEREMIAH W. ARNOLD

*Lydia J.* married O. W. Park, of Weston, Vt., and at her decease left one son and two daughters surviving, two daughters having died previous to that date.

*Luther S.* married Marion Wait, of Londonderry. He was a physician and spent his whole life in town. He had one son, Elmore Ferdinand, who,

like his father and grandfather, was a physician. He married M. Edna Merrick and practiced his profession in New York City for some years until his health failed, when he came back to the old homestead and there died. The children of Elmore F. were: Wendell Merrick, Gladys Thelma, Kenneth Tingley, George Edwin Luther, and Phyllis Marguerite all of whom survived him; and one son, Melvin Elmore, who died in boyhood. *Louisa I.* married Doctor J. W. Marsh and had three daughters. *Elbert W.* married Sarah V. Shattuck, of Weston, Vt., who died childless. His second wife was Mary T. R. Curtis, and by this second marriage he had four children; Burtell, who died in his second year, Luther, Alice W., who died in infancy, and Auther.

#### Children of DAVID ARNOLD

*George J.* married Anna Elizabeth Bullard. He was a physician and practiced in Boston, Mass. He died at Old Orchard Beach, Oct. 3, 1883, from a wound received while cleaning a revolver from which one cartridge had not been removed. He had seven children, two of whom died in childhood. *Charles E.* never married. He was a lawyer, at one time in office of H. E. Stoughton, Bellows Falls, Vt., and later resided in New York City, where he died, Mar. 8, 1890. *Lydia Ann Frances* married Charles A. Starbuck, to whom she bore two sons and three daughters. *Samuel D.* married Elnora A. Tenney and had one daughter, Julia Bessie, who married Edward Collins. Samuel D. was a member of Co. D, 16th Vt. Vols. and spent most of his life after the close of the war in business in St. Louis, Mo., where he died. *David Pratt* died Dec. 8, 1847. *Lucy Caroline* (Carrie L.) married J. Washburn Melendy, of Londonderry, where she spent her whole life, and had one son, Emery Arnold. *Helen W.* died in 1850. *Mary E.* married George C. Robinson, of Londonderry, had a son, Curtis, and a daughter, May. She died in Londonderry June 21, 1905.

The children of Dr. George J. and Anna E. (Bullard) Arnold were:

Harold David, George Wheeler, Harriet Bullard, John Bullard, Josephine H., Anna C. and Elizabeth Dudley. Of these, Harold David married Ida Persis Lane and has four sons: George E., Warren D., David B. and Horace L. John Bullard married Ruth Hill. Josephine H. married John Peck; Anna C. married Frank T. Robinson, and Elizabeth Dudley married Robert Bruce.

William Arnold, a younger brother of Samuel, or "Squire" Arnold, resided in this town from 1796 to 1807 and his farm was in the northwest part of the town. He married Betsey Cobb, of Taunton, Mass., by whom he had



four children: Betsey, William, Jr., Mary and Emeline. His second wife was Margaret W. Sargent, of Westmoreland, N. H., who bore him one son, James Washburn. William sold his farm to Benjamin Hoar in January, 1809, after he had moved to Westmoreland. He was a tanner by trade and carried on that business in Westmoreland for several years.

Under him Nathan Buxton, who built and operated the first tannery in Londonderry, learned his trade. On leaving Westmoreland, William removed to Central New York where he died, Feb. 28, 1853.

## Babbitt

Prior to the division of our ancient Londonderry into two towns, Daniel Babbitt and his brother Ira purchased land in that part of the town which was set off as Windham in 1795.

The real estate records show that other brothers of Daniel held interests in land in this town, but there seems to be no evidence of any of them having lived here. Daniel and Ira were residents of Windham until their deaths.

They traced descent from Edward Bobet, the founder of the family in New England, who first appears, in 1643, in a list of those between 16 and 60 years of age in Plymouth Colony "able to bear arms." His residence was at Taunton, Mass. in 1652, in which year he first made purchase of land. In 1675, during King Philip's War, he left his home and joined other settlers of the neighborhood assembling for greater security from the savages. He was killed by the Indians in June of that year. Desiring some article that had been left at his home in the hurried removal, he set out to procure it, taking his dog with him in belief that the presence of any lurking savages might be more quickly discovered by the animal than by himself. This precaution proved his undoing for, upon observing the approach of Indians, he concealed himself in a tree only to be readily found because of the conduct of the dog.

His descendants spelled the family name in various ways until the fifth generation when the present form was adopted, at least by the most of them. David Babbitt, son of Daniel, traced his line of ancestry through Daniel, Nathaniel, Seth, and Edward to Edward Bobet of Taunton. He came from Windham to Londonderry about 1817 and settled in the extreme southerly part of the town upon a tract of land then covered by virgin forest which he cut away, converting the wooded acres into a productive farm which he occupied until 1864, when he conveyed it to his youngest son, Byron C. He was an expert in the work of cutting up meat and was accustomed each fall to walk to Boston and there work until spring in one of the market stalls. He followed this work for twenty-two consecutive winters and, during his absence, his wife, at first by her own labor and later with the help her children were able to afford her as they grew up, cared for

the stock through those long winter months and looked after all the affairs on the farm.

For a long time no road led to their house, a mere "bridle path" sufficing for use in its stead. The old lady in her later days took delight in recounting some of the toilsome experiences of that earlier time; one of them being of a trip taken by her to the neighboring town of Winhall to procure a young pig which her husband had bargained for and was to fatten on the farm. She made the trip on horseback, taking one of her younger children with her, and returned safely, herself, the child and the pig, the latter stowed in a bag, all borne home on the back of the faithful horse.

DAVID BABBITT was born in Windham, Vt., Feb. 10, 1797, and died at Londonderry, June 23, 1872. His wife was Polly Gates, a native of Acworth, N. H., and their children were: Winslow W., born May 10, 1816; Mary A., Feb. 16, 1818; David, Jr., Jan. 12, 1820; Samuel, Sept. 25, 1821; Cyrus, Oct. 12, 1823; Lucina, Apr. 10, 1825; Alonzo, Apr. 21, 1827; Electa, Oct. 16, 1830; George, Apr. 19, 1833; Byron C., Apr. 23, 1836, and Lucinda, Oct. 7, 1838.

All these, save the last named, lived to maturity and most of them to what might well be termed ripe old age, and seven of them died in Londonderry.

*Winslow W.* married Laura Ann Farr, of Windham, and had two sons and two daughters: Addie L., who married Thomas A. Eames; Etta, who did not marry; Frank, also unmarried, and Eugene, who married Mary A. Gorham and had four sons. Winslow W. was an expert brick-maker and made his home for many years in Medford, Mass. working at that trade. *Mary A.* married Alfonzo E. Cole, of Londonderry, by whom she had one son and one daughter. (See *Cole Family Sketch*.)

*David, Jr.* married Deborah Cheney, by whom he had two daughters: Etta, who died at the age of four years, and Mary, who married Chandler D. Rawson and died leaving no child. For his second wife he married Abbie J. Richardson who survived him. He had no child of this second marriage. *Samuel* married Althine Jane Mason and their children were:

Romanzo P., Aug. 10, 1842; Ellen J., Oct. 4, 1846; Lizzie S., June 19, 1848; Addie E., June 18, 1854; Lysander W., June 8, 1851; Charles W., Nov. 20, 1859; Frank G., June 1, 1857; Alma A., June 1, 1861; Hiland, Oct. 23, 1863, and Elwin J., Dec. 13, 1865.

*Romanzo* married Ida Hill, but left no child at the time of his death which occurred in July, 1885.

*Ellen J.* married Eldon Eldred and resides in Michigan. She has two sons and one daughter.



*Lizzie S.* married Frank Hayward and resides in Winhall, Vt. She has one daughter, Ellen, who married Lee S. Haven and resides in town.

*Lysander W.* married Artimesia Haskins whom he survived. He died in Londonderry in 1921 leaving no issue.

*Addie E.* married Chester Hulett and the fruit of their union was a son, John P., and a daughter, Lizzie, who married John C. McAllister and lives in town, as does her brother.

*Frank G.* died, unmarried, Sept. 28, 1883.

*Charlie W.* married Alberta Vail, and died, Jan. 29, 1899, leaving two daughters; Bernice, who married Frank H. Tyler and lives in town; Grace who married Emil M. Mattson, and one son, Merle, who married Florence Stowe and has two daughters.

*Alma A.* died in her fourteenth year.

*Hiland* never married and is now deceased.

*Elwin J.* married Eliza Woodard and had a son, Carl, who, upon the separation of his parents, took the name Carl Woodard. Elwin later removed to Petoskey, Mich., where he resides and has remarried.

*Cyrus* married Laura B. Farnum and lived in town until his decease. His children were: Luella A., July 3, 1849; Zina L., Feb. 2, 1856; Zeno B., Apr., 1861; Lueza A., Nov. 12, 1866, and Hoit A., Oct. 28, 1869.

*Luella A.* married Josiah A. Goddard by whom she had two children, Milon and Hallie A. (See *Goddard Family Sketch*.) Later she married Anson S. Hayward, whom she survives. There was no child by the second marriage.

*Zina L.* married Virginia L. Spence, had one son, Spence, and lost his life in Boston Harbor, being drowned when his pleasure boat capsized, June 19, 1898.

*Zeno B.* was twice married; first to Susie E. Chase, by whom he had a daughter, Florence, who married Leslie Goldthwaite and had a son and a daughter; and his second wife was Mrs. Annie Parks.

*Lueza A.* married Charles Brasor and resides in Brattleboro, Vt.

*Hoit A.* married May M. Corey and lives on his father's old homestead. No child has been born to him.

*Lucina* married Henry W. Goddard and had two sons, Martin H. and Ira. (See GODDARD FAMILY SKETCH.) She separated from her husband and, later, married one Derby, but had no child of this second marriage.

*Alonzo* married Feronia Mason, sister of his brother Samuel's wife, and four children; Ellery, Emma Lilla, Sabrina and Elsie, besides twins who died in infancy, un-named. He moved to Ohio not long after his marriage and did not revisit Vermont thereafter. He died at Adams Ridge, Ohio.

*Electa* was twice married; first to Francis Baldwin, by whom she had a daughter who died in childhood. She later married William Bogle and died in Londonderry without children.

*George* married Sarah Jane (Pike) French who bore him two sons who lived to maturity, Fred D. and George H., and two daughters who died young. *Fred D.* married Hattie May who soon died leaving a daughter who became the wife of Austin Davis, and he then married Myrtle Burbee by whom he had a son, Clifford, and later he married, as his third wife, Mattie Graves.

*George H.* married Mary Matilda Warner and had three daughters: Gratia, Flossie and Lydia, the first of whom died in early youth.

*Byron C.* married Cynthia Landman and lived on his father's old homestead for many years but later moved to the South Village where he died. He had three daughters: Etta, Lilla and Jenevia.

*Etta* married Martin C. Huntley and had one son, Harold, and lived in town until her decease.

*Lilla* married Osro Hewes, of Winhall and has since lived in that town. She had no child who survived infancy.

*Jenevia* married Jerome Nido and lives in town, as she has all her life. She has no children.

*Lucinda* died in early childhood.

## Buxton

The earlier record of this family is taken from a manuscript genealogical sketch compiled by William F. Buxton, of the eighth generation of the family in America.

From that sketch it appears that the founder of the family on these shores was Anthony Buxton, who was born in England in 1601 and emigrated to New England in 1637, settling in Salem, Mass.

Seven children were born to him and his wife, Elizabeth, and from him Jonathan Buxton (1774-1866), who was the first of the name in Londonderry, Vt., traces his descent, through Joseph (1663-1745), Samuel (1691-1753), Benjamin (1715-1781), and James (1745-1817).

In the case of practically all those named large families of children were the rule but, locally, the interest centers in this Jonathan and his descendants. He was born in Smithfield, R. I., to which place an earlier generation had removed seeking a home where greater toleration of belief prevailed



than in Massachusetts, the family being members of the Society of Friends, commonly termed Quakers. Jonathan was, himself, of that persuasion.

He married Salome Esten (1777-1869), a descendant of one of the pioneer families of Rhode Island. As husband and wife they lived together over seventy years and both died at Smithfield, to which earlier home they returned from Londonderry when well stricken in years.

The circumstances attending his coming to this town are most interesting and are, doubtless, fairly typical, in many details, of those connected with the majority of our pioneers. He moved here in 1798, having on an earlier visit, in 1796, secured a tract of about two hundred acres of land, upon which he had begun a clearing and erected a log house.

This house stood at the foot of Glebe Mountain some distance southerly from the present main highway leading through Thompsonburg, and upon the southerly part of the farm later known as the Capt. James place.

To this new home he journeyed from Rhode Island with his family, then consisting of wife and two children, Nathan and Benjamin, the younger about one year old. The journey was made in winter, the household goods and older child on a sled drawn by oxen and the wife, with younger child in arms, riding a horse. Seven days were required to make the journey and the family tradition says that a brother who came up with him at once returned to Rhode Island with the ox team which drew his meagre household equipment to this pioneer home, where the family lived for several succeeding years and where three more children were born.

Additional lands, adjoining the original homestead, were purchased by Mr. Buxton during these years and a more comfortable house was built on one of the later acquired tracts, nearer the present highway, and here his other children were born.

The children of Jonathan and Salome Buxton were Nathan (Mar. 12, 1796), Benjamin (Sept. 28, 1797), Jason (Dec. 21, 1799), Philena (Nov. 1, 1801), Hannah (Oct. 30, 1803), John (Nov. 12, 1809), Daniel (May 1, 1811), Lucy (Mar. 17, 1814), Cyrus (Mar. 12, 1816) and Selah (Mar. 13, 1819).

*Nathan* the oldest son, when eighteen years old went to Westmoreland and spent three years, at a shilling per day, learning the trade of a tanner. Then, after about two years spent in "York State," he returned to his former employer in Westmoreland and, after working less than a year, succeeded to the business, buying the personal property and renting the plant for the succeeding four years. At this time he had married Elizabeth Griswold and one child had been born to them.

He then came, with his family, to Londonderry, Vt., purchased a plot of land upon which he cut off the timber and erected a tannery, the first in town, at Thompsonburg. This was destroyed by fire very soon after he began business in it and before any leather had been tanned. By the ready aid of neighbors and townspeople it was replaced by a building in which

the lower floor was fitted for tanning and the upper portion for a dwelling or home for his family. Here he lived for the next eleven years, and then purchased a small farm with dwelling adjoining the tannery. When he began tanning at this place he had no means of grinding bark but had it ground in Andover from whence he drew it to Londonderry.

He conducted the tanning business and managed the little farm until he lost his sight, when he sold out and came to live near the village of South Londonderry. He was totally blind for many years before his death. His married life extended over a period which permitted the celebration of his golden wedding. His children were: Mary, Stephen A., Martha, Adaline, Charles, Albert, Horace and Martin, the last of whom died in early childhood.

*Mary* married N. B. Harrington, of Keene, N. H., and lived in that city until her decease.

*Stephen A.* married Laura S. Haynes and resided in town for many years, the latter part of that time upon the farm on the main road over Huntley mountain. The family then removed to one of the western states where he died. His children were: Loren Haynes, William Albert and Charles Stanton, the last of whom died when seven years of age.

*Martha* never married, and the place and date of her death does not appear on the registration records of this town.

*Adaline* married Silas W. Stewart, of Windham, Vt. and died in Windham, leaving children.

*Charles* married Sophia W. Frost, by whom he had one child who died on the same day as her mother, exactly one month from the date her father was killed. At the outbreak of the civil war he was residing at Bellows Falls, where he enlisted in Co. G, 11th Vt. Vols., of which he was commissioned Captain; later he was promoted to Major but died before the last commission reached him. He was killed in action at Opequan, Sept. 19, 1864, and his body buried here in his native town. About two years after the close of the war, a letter, signed "C. Buxton" was sent to the Governor of Vermont from Lynchburg, Va., in which the writer claimed to be Major, or Captain, Charles Buxton, setting forth in much detail alleged facts as to his having been seriously wounded in battle, being bereft of reason by his wound, and relating his subsequent wanderings on recovery of reason, and requesting aid to enable him to return home to his family in Vermont. The facts detailed gave such degree of plausibility to the tale as to lead many to believe that it was true, though many who knew him in service and before enlistment declared that they knew he was killed and his body sent home. The letter was turned over to the Adjt. General of Vermont and a thorough investigation made of the whole matter, which resulted in proving the story a fabrication, the work of one who had learned something about Captain



Buxton from a member of his Company, who was in some way related to the writer.

*Albert* married Harriet Rice, but had no child. He, too, was a soldier of the civil war, enlisting from this town in Co. H, 2nd U. S. Sharpshooters, being commissioned as First Lieut. and later promoted to Captain of the Company, in which capacity he served until killed in action at the Battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864. His body found burial here at his former home.

*Horace* never married. He was the third son of Nathan to enlist in the service of his country, being a member of Co. G, 11th Vt. Vols. He was mustered as Corporal and died, of disease, in military hospital, April 3, 1863. Three sons of this blind old man, Nathan, each paid the last, full measure of loyalty and devotion to his country.

*Benjamin*, second son of Jonathan, married Mary B. Temple, of Londonderry, and, after his parents returned to Rhode Island, had the old homestead here. Eleven children, all born in this ancestral home, were the fruit of the marriage, viz: George, Henry, William F., Mark R., Myron, Harriet, Susan, Aurilla, and Parker J., all of whom lived to mature years, and Rebecca and Mary E., both of whom died in early childhood.

*George*, born Mar. 7, 1832, died in Londonderry, at the age of twenty-five years, unmarried.

*Henry*, May 5, 1833, Benjamin's second son, married Elizabeth Prime and made his home in Somerville, Mass. He had two sons, Charles H. and Ernest S.

*William F.*, the third son, married Irena C. Carr, who died in 1882, having borne him four children, of whom but one, William M., lived to maturity. In 1889 he married Ann M. Wilson, of Lawrence, Mass., which city was then his home. He was a soldier of the civil war, serving as a member of Co. A, 2nd Mass. Vols., and was so seriously wounded at the battle of Cedar Mountain, Va. as to result in his discharge from service for disability.

*Mark R.*, Aug. 9, 1836, fourth son of Benjamin, married Sarah R. Parker, of Reading, Mass., and had his home for many years preceding his death, on March 23, 1910, in Nashua, N. H. He had two sons, George E. and Fred T.

*Myron*, Dec. 7, 1837, Benjamin's fifth son, married Sarah E. Smith, of Princeton, Mass. She died in 1876 and, in 1883, he took for his second wife Myra Osgood, also of Princeton. He had no children, and died in 1907, leaving, by the terms of his will, one thousand dollars to the Town of Londonderry the income of which was to be annually distributed to the "deserving widows and orphans" of the town.

*Harriet*, Sept. 25, 1839, oldest daughter and sixth child of Benjamin, married Henry L. Campbell, to whom she bore a daughter, Ann F.

*Susan*, Feb. 17, 1841, the second daughter, married Henry H. Bliss, and they had one son, Arthur H., and one daughter, Grace G.

*Aurilla*, Aug. 27, 1842, the youngest of Benjamin's daughters who survived childhood, married Owen M. Barbour, of Cumberland, R. I., and had a son, Albert L., and a daughter, Jessie M.

*Parker J.*, June 30, 1845, Benjamin's youngest son, made his home in Woonsocket, R. I., where he married Elizabeth Byrnes of that city. Their children were: Mary, George, Frank, Elizabeth and Grace.

The other children of Benjamin were two daughters, both of whom died in early childhood: Rebecca, Aug. 27, 1847,—Feb. 21, 1852, and Mary E. July 22, 1849,—Feb. 9, 1850.

*Jason*, the first of Jonathan's children born in Londonderry, married Eveline Pierce and two daughters were the fruit of that union; Sylvia, who married Milton Rockwell and had one daughter, Ida R., who died in infancy; and Emily, who married William M. Rockwell (brother of Milton, her sister's husband) and died, childless, in Woonsocket, R. I. in 1888.

*Philena*, Jonathan's oldest daughter, married Nathaniel Thompson, grandson of Samuel Thompson, one of the town's early settlers, and spent her long life in this town.

*Hannah*, the second daughter, married Benjamin Reed, of Londonderry and lived here until her decease, dying childless.

*John*, fourth son of Jonathan, married Polly Field and settled in Chesterfield, N. H., where he died May 4, 1897.

His children were; Ira P., Fannie J., Jane, Ona, Maria and George F. Of these, Ira P. married Mrs. Eliza Buzzell; Fannie J. married Merrick E. Chandler; Jane died at the age of eight years; Ona married Mary E. Ingell; Maria died, unmarried, in 1888, and George F. died in infancy.

*Daniel*, Jonathan's fifth son, was twice married; first to Rosella Taft, who was the mother of all his children, and, after her death, to Harriet Holbrook. His children were: Willard D., Jason, Richard, Laretta, who died young, a son who died in infancy, Bradford, Caroline A. and Mary Angeline.

*Willard D.* married Viola Kingsbury, now deceased, and resided in town on land which adjoins a part of the farm once owned by his grandfather, Jonathan, until a short time before his death. He had no child.

He enlisted as a recruit in Co. I, 2nd Vt. Vols. and received honorable discharge at the close of the war.

*Jason*, Daniel's second son, married ———, made his home in Leominster, Mass., and had two daughters, Flora M. and Rosilla P.

*Richard* was not married, and spent the greater part of his mature life away from Londonderry but returned in his later years and died on the farm at Thompsonburg once a part of his grandfather's homestead.

*Bradford*, youngest son of Daniel, married Marietta (Wheeler) Gibson, by whom he had one daughter who died in infancy.



*Caroline A.* married Justin V. Albee and had two children, who died very young, and for her second husband married ——— Demond to whom she bore one son, Harold.

*Mary Angeline*, Daniel's youngest child, was twice married; first to ——— Bennett by whom she had two daughters, Grace A. and Cora L. Her second husband was ——— White.

*Lucy*, Jonathan's youngest daughter and eighth child, married Albert Waterman, and died in Blackstone, Mass. leaving one daughter, Emeline M., who married Levi Ballou, in Hopedale, Mass.

*Cyrus*, with his younger brother, Selah, it is said, removed with their parents to Rhode Island when they left Londonderry, and, on attaining his majority, went to Michigan, where he took up a tract of 160 acres of Government land and was one of the earliest pioneers in that immediate vicinity. Having begun the erection of his house, or cabin, he married Harriet Willard Gates, who had moved to that section, with her parents, from Brandon, Vt. Following his wedding, he returned alone to his partially constructed house to further prepare it for occupancy, having first occupied a small log cabin which had been built by an Indian.

At the end of two weeks, he went for his bride and they made their wedding trip thither by ox team. Their life was that of pioneers, in the strictest sense, and rigid economy was practiced for years, but he eventually became wealthy and a man of influence in his community.

His wife died in 1865, leaving a family of six children, and he survived until 1905. Their children were; Alfred B., Olive B., Darius, Julia, Willard and May.

*Alfred* married Miranda Austin and had one child, Gail.

*Olive* married Eugene Cook and had a daughter and a son, Ada and Edward.

*Darius* married Mary Ann Ostroth and had three sons, Valentine, Samuel and Cyrus.

*Julia* married John Marshall and had three children; Bertha; Lois and Cyrus B.

*Willard* married and had one child, Christine, but his wife's maiden name was not learned.

*May* married Andrew Hardy and had her home in Detroit, Mich. She had no children.

None of these children, so far as known have ever been in Londonderry. *Selah*, Jonathan's youngest child, married Sarah A. Tourtellot, and died in Worcester, Mass. in 1898, two months after the death of his wife.

Their children were; Amanda Augusta, Leander S., Russell Alden, and Ida May.



## Chaffee

This family name has had more variety in its orthography than any other of local interest. The founder of the family in this country is said to have used, at different times, at least four forms in signing his own name, and his descendants added to that variety in later days.

The first of the name in the records of Londonderry, Vt. was Stephen, who came from Rehoboth, Mass. His descent was traced back, through Levi, Nathaniel, Jonathan and Nathaniel, to Thomas Chaffe, the founder of the family in New England, who was a fisherman and farmer living at "Base Cove" in 1635 when the name of the place was changed to Hingham, Mass.

Stephen was born in Rehoboth, Oct. 10, 1765, and there married, Feb. 25, 1789, Chloe, daughter of Comfort Pierce (sometime written Pearce). Their children were: Allen, born 1790, married Eliza Bryant; Stephen, born 1791, married Deborah Usher; Sanford, born 1793, married (1) Sarah Chase, (2) Mary A. Otterson; and Betsey, born 1795, married, Nov. 5, 1812, Abel Mansfield of Warren, R. I.

In the spring of 1794 they sold their home in Rehoboth, inherited by his wife from her father, and purchased of Hugh Montgomery a tract of ninety-three acres in Londonderry, Vt. lying next north of the Arrington Gibson farm ("Collins place"), as it soon came to be known.

The date of his purchase of this tract is stated on the authority of statement in the CHAFFEE GENEALOGY, by William H. Chaffee, but no deed making the conveyance is found in Londonderry Land Records.

Here they resided for some years and tradition, as well as the CHAFFEE GENEALOGY, states that he there kept a store. Later he sold a plot off his farm to the town and the same became the "Middle-of-the-town" cemetery. About 1805, it is said, a fire threatened destruction to his home and store and that, in his efforts to extinguish this, he suffered an injury from which he never fully recovered. The date of his death is not definitely known, but it was subsequent to 1812.

Though his son Allen was at one time an owner of lands in Londonderry, it is not probable that he or his brothers or sister resided in town long after their father's death, for Allen was not a resident here at the time he purchased or sold his lands, and none of their names occur later in the records.

Jonathan Chaffee, brother of Stephen, was born in Rehoboth, April 18, 1768, and there married Polly Horton, April 13, 1795.

In December 1797 (on authority of the CHAFFEE GENEALOGY), he bought of his brother, Stephen "Chafey," a small tract of land in Londonderry and came here from Rehoboth. Later he owned other lands in town, but did not remain a resident many years. In March 1804 he was in Rupert,



Vt. and is said to have resided in Dorset from 1805 to 1817, removing in the latter year to Wilmington, Vt.

He had a daughter, Polly, born Aug. 2, 1792, of whom no further information has been found; and a son, Jonathan, Jr., born Jan. 17, 1795, who married Priscilla, daughter of Edmund Ingalls of this town, but had no children.

The date of his death is not known, but his wife survived him and she died in this town Oct. 28, 1857.

## Cochran

DAVID COCHRAN was one of the earliest settlers in town. The date of his coming has been stated in some publications as 1772, but there can be little or no doubt that he was here and at work clearing land at least a year earlier, and more probably in the summer of 1771, returning to his former home on winter's approach. He was one of Colonel Rogers' original party of settlers and "pitched" his farm near the "Great Pond" (Lowell Lake), the same being now a part of "Mount Lake Farm," which he exchanged in 1787 for Nehemiah How's farm in the westerly part of the town on which he lived until his removal from town. He was born in 1751 at Londonderry, N. H. whence he came to Kent. His wife was Mary, the eldest of the daughters of Deacon Edward Aiken, another of that original party who came with Colonel Rogers. Twelve children were the fruit of their union, two of whom died in infancy while ten lived to maturity, and some of them to very ripe old age, viz: — John, Oct. 15, 1771; Mary (Polly), Sept. 22, 1772; Edward, Apr. 7, 1774; David, Apr. 5, 1775; Susanna, Aug. 8, 1776; Elizabeth, Sept. 15, 1777; James, Dec. 22, 1778; Elmer, Apr. 8, 1780; Nancy, June 26, 1782, and Isaac, July 2, 1798.

John married Polly Butler, of Weston, Vt., and had a large family; Rodney,

David and Mary, who died in childhood and eight who lived to maturity; Hannah, Jan. 22, 1805; Ira, Nov. 2, 1810; John Rodney, Mar. 30, 1813; Mary, Mar. 6, 1815; Bersey, Aug. 3, 1817; Luther, July 6, 1819; Elvira, May 15, 1821, and Almira, May 28, 1822.

Hannah married Graham Purdy.

Ira married Susan Bacheher (Bacheholder) and had a son, John Luther, who married Sarah Roberts, and three daughters; Jane who married Robinson Andrus, who survived her; Marion who married D. J. Vail, whom she survived, and Sarah who married Joseph Morse, whom she survived and later married Robinson Andrus. Ira had previously married Sarah Flood who died childless.

John Rodney married Sophia Curtis and had one son and three daughters. This son entered the regular army and is said to have deserted from a Post "in the Southwest"; and the family then lost trace of

him. Only one of the daughters, Clara, the youngest, was living in 1910.

*Mary* married Dorson Eastman.

*Betsey* married Blake Barrows.

*Luther* was a physician and died unmarried.

*Elvira* married F. R. Harwood.

*Almira* married Marcus Manley.

*John Luther*, son of Ira and Susan (Batchelder), married Sarah Roberts and had one child, John Ira, who married Mary Randolph Jones, of Virginia.

*Mary (Polly)* married Arrington Gibson and lived at the Middle-of-the-town until her death. (See GIBSON FAMILY SKETCH.)

*Edward* married Esther Gibson, of Grafton, Vt., and lived in Winhall, where all his children were born. These were; Rebecca G., Jan. 20, 1810; Esther, Sept. 6, 1811; Orvilla C., Dec. 28, 1814; Warren, Dec. 18, 1816; Isaac N., Nov. 16, 1818; Edward Aiken, Feb. 4, 1820; Abraham G., Feb. 10, 1822; Mary Aiken, Sept. 15, 1824; Fanny W., May 30, 1826; Sarah G., July 27, 1828, and Lucy A., Apr. 23, 1831. Of these Esther, Sarah G. and Lucy A. died unmarried. Rebecca G. married Lucius Barnard and had eight children.

*Orvilla C.* married Sylvanus Pendleton and had two children.

*Warren* was three times married, but no record or information as to his children, if any there were, is found.

*Isaac N.* married Sally D. Cook, but had no child.

*Edward A.* married Betsey Robinson, but had no issue.

*Abraham G.* married Celia Gilbert and had six children; Martha Jane who married Daniel W. Nellis and had two children; Emma Eugenia who married Allen Stewart and had one child; Edward Gibson who married Anna Lawrence and had a son, Frank L., and a daughter, Irena; Mary Elizabeth who married Frank F. Gow and had three children; Gertrude who married William E. Cochran, of Denver, Col., and had Mildred W., Ruth G., Margaret and Philip; and Annie E. unmarried.

*Mary Aiken* married Henry H. Leonard and had four children.

*Fanny W.* married Willard Rogers.

*David* married Polly Blood, of Windham, Vt., and is said to have had two sons, Harvey and Gilbert, and two daughters, Miranda and Abigail, but the record in Londonderry only names two; James H. and Miranda.

*Susanna*, in later years abbreviated to Susan, married Deacon David Richardson, of Londonderry, and had a large family of children. Their home was on the Jaquith farm at the height of land between the two villages, on which their son Calvin lived for a time and where his parents



died. One of their sons, David A., became a Baptist clergyman and, later, was principal of a classical school at Alton, Ill.

*Elizabeth*, or Betsey as called in later years, married Doctor John Gibson, long time a practicing physician in town, but had no child. Their home was in the small brick house on the hill road between the villages, and this by the terms of the Doctor's will, passed at the death of his widow to the college at Oberlin, Ohio. Both the Doctor and his wife died on this old homestead, she having survived him many years.

*James* married Safety Cook, of Londonderry, and his children were; Lucretia, Isaac, Mary and Edward. Of these we have no further trace.

*Abner* married Hannah Woods, who bore him two children, Bela and David, of whom we know no more.

*Nancy* never married. She was, for many years, a teacher in "the South," and was there so employed until very shortly before the breaking out of the Civil War. She, true to her training and ancestry, was an "Abolitionist" and then existing conditions led, or forced, her to leave that section and she returned to her girlhood home in this town.

A result of this enforced removal was some financial loss and sacrifice of property rights from which she never realized anything. She remained a resident of this town thereafter, making her home on "the Collins place" with the daughter of her sister, Mary (Gibson) and her grandnephew, Henry H. Collins. From her was obtained much of the data and information which form the basis of this sketch and, practically to the close of her life, her interest in the affairs of the town, both in the then present and the earlier days of its settlement, was lively.

She died May 26, 1891, being then the oldest resident in town.

*Isaac* married Zorado A. Morton and had five children; John, Mary, Edward, Sally and Nanny. He entered Middlebury College in 1817 but, failing in health, was compelled to seek change of climate. He went to North Carolina, there graduated from college in 1822 and became a clergyman.

It is said that John, son of Isaac and Zorado (Morton), and also Warren and Abraham G., sons of Edward and Esther (Gibson), were all clergymen.

David, the early settler and the founder of this family here, was a very religious man, his earlier affiliation being with the old Presbyterian Church first in town, and was made one of the two Deacons in the Congregational Church when that was organized in 1809.

Evidence of the rigidity of his faith and convictions may be found in the fact that ten years later a charge was brought by him against his son John "for neglect of his covenant obligations" and the Church chose a committee to labor with John. The result was that he (John) "confessed his fault," and the Church voted him a letter to the Church at Man-

chester "by his getting his children baptized." Evidently John had at that time either moved or was about to move "across the mountain" to Dorset, near Manchester. In 1825 David conveyed a part, then unsold, of his old homestead and took what was termed a "life lease" thereon providing for his support during life; and, no reference to her being then made, it is assumed that his wife had died before that date.

In 1830, he released his claim on the land under that "life lease" and went to the home of his son John, then in Dorset, where he died in the following year. It is said that most of his sons removed to "the west," or what was then so termed.

## Cole

CAPTAIN JOHN COLE, then a resident of Westmoreland, N. H., purchased land in Londonderry, Vt. in 1783, his deed bearing date May 23, of that year and covering a twenty-five acre plot in the easterly part of the town, now Windham. He was born June 29, 1741, the seventh child and third son, of Jonathan and Judith (Bowen) Cole, and traced his descent, through Jonathan, John and John, to Thomas Cole who was residing in Salem, Mass. in 1649, and is believed to be the same Thomas Cole who came over in the "Mary and John" in March, 1633. He died in Westmoreland in 1786 while on a visit to his oldest brother, Jonathan, and was buried in that town.

He was a sergeant in the Eighth Company of Col. Nichols' Regiment, Joseph Hindes, Captain, in 1776, and was at the battle of Bunker Hill.

In 1777, he was chosen Captain of a Company of sixty-three men raised for service against Burgoyne.

He married Lois Davis who bore him fourteen children and died at the ripe age of 88 years, in Westmoreland, Sept. 30, 1830, at the home of her youngest son where she had spent her later years.

Their children, with dates of birth and death, were: Levi, Jan. 10, 1762-Sept. 20, 1850; John, Sept. 23, 1763- ———, 1850; Salmon, Jan. 13, 1765- ———, 1840; Matawassa, May 22, 1766-June 14, 1772; Amasa, March 12, 1768- ———; Leban, Feb. 14, 1770-March 24, 1830; Hannah, Apr. 25, 1772, married Benj. Howard, of Jamaica, Vt., ———; Derastus, Dec. 13, 1773, ———, 1842; Benoni, Feb. 8, 1775-Sept. 25, 1798; Sala, Sept. 2, 1776-Feb. 8, 1852; Ethan, Mar. 5, 1778-Dec. 14, 1854; Simon, Feb. 13, 1780-June 27, 1856; Lois, Aug. 15, 1781, married Reuben Robinson, died Dec. 30, 1803, and Heber, Aug. 10, 1783-Oct. 19, 1857.

Their son John, after his father's decease, purchased the homestead, taking deed Jan. 2, 1788, and later, Sept., 1788, bought a larger tract adjoining. He remained in town at least as late as Jan., 1793, but whether he removed from here direct to Canada, where he spent the latter part of his life, is not certain.



His brother Sala spent nearly all his early life in Windham (as now known). Having married Sally Stevens, of Townshend, Vt., in 1801, he raised a family of seven children and, in 1801, moved to Tioga, N. Y. at which place he lived the rest of his life.

*Ethan*, brother of John and Sala, married Lucinda Wetherell, of Barre, Mass. in 1801 and resided in Barre until 1810 when they moved to Windham, and thence to Londonderry in 1826 and remained here until his death, in 1854. He had a family of seven children, all born before his coming to Londonderry. They were:

*Arnold*, born Aug. 12, 1803, died July 30, 1860.

*Arminala*, Dec. 15, 1804, married Waldo Barton, a farmer and blacksmith, of Londonderry, and died June 17, 1879, leaving one daughter, who married Joseph R. Richardson, of Chester, Vt.

*Alson*, June 5, 1807, married Tryphena Sanderson, of Sunderland, Mass. and died, childless, June 18, 1850.

*Isabanda*, June 15, 1809, married Reuben Harrington, by whom she had twelve children, all born in Londonderry, where two of them died in infancy. Her husband died in 1871 and in 1879 she married Ichabod Gibson, of this town, and died here June 16, 1885.

*Alfred R.*, Oct. 19, 1811.

*Alvarado*, April 20, 1814, died in town Dec. 15, 1894. His wife was Theodesia Reed, of Londonderry, by whom he had three children:

*Warren*, Dec. 5, 1841, married Rosa Harris but had no children.

In 1863 he enlisted in the 26th Reg't New Jersey Vols. and served until the close of the war.

*Henrietta* and *Julia*, twin daughters, Nov. 12, 1843.

*Henrietta* married George A. Howard, of Londonderry, and, after his decease, Leroy G. Davis, also of this town, and died, childless, Sept. 18, 1911.

*Julia* married John Gibson, of Londonderry, and had two children,

*Alvarado C.*, May 9, 1869, and *Henrietta C.*, Apr. 25, 1877.

(See *Gibson Family Sketch*.) She died Jan. 27, 1906.

*Alfonzo Ethan*, Mar. 1, 1817, married Sylvia Cheney and they had three children: Winslow A., Dec. 9, 1841, died June 21, 1884; Emeline, Aug. 28, 1843, married Charles Rawson and had one son, Frank; George W., Nov. 15, 1845, died Dec. 28, 1845.

*Sylvia*, wife of Alfonzo E., died in 1847, and he married Mary Babbitt.

Two children were the fruit of this second marriage: Alson, Mar. 15, 1850, and Almerette, Apr. 29, 1853. He died Dec. 27, 1883.

*Winslow A.*, oldest son of Alfonzo and Sylvia, married Marietta Rawson and had a family of five children: Mina M., Mar. 23, 1865; Netta M., Sept. 24, 1867; George W., July 20, 1873; Ernest R., Sept. 13, 1876, and Edith S., Jan. 6, 1879.

*Alson*, son of Alfonzo E. and Mary, was insane from boyhood and in later years it became necessary to keep him in confinement because of that fact. He died Mar. 18, 1913.

*Almerette* married Melvin C. Vaile and had one son, Everett C., who married Minnie Allen and has one daughter, Errall.

Almerette's second husband was George C. Robinson and, after his decease, she again married, her third husband being Herbert Benson.

## Cox

Three brothers of this name, William, John and Robert, came here from Londonderry, N. H. and "pitched" up adjoining farms on the extreme northern border of the town; William upon the Priest Wilbur place and John on the Alonzo Stevens farm, as they were respectively known in later years. It is said that Robert began clearing his plot, next west of William's, later known as the Fish place, now untenanted, but soon abandoned it and went from town. This may well be true though his name does not appear in the records as a land owner or otherwise, for none of the settlers received deeds of their lands prior to 1774, before which date Robert is supposed to have removed.

We are unable to trace definitely or certainly their ancestry but there seems to be no question as to their being descendants of the Scotch-Irish pioneers who settled Londonderry, N. H. We know that the names of William Cox, Edward Cox, Charles Cox and Joseph Cox appear in a "Parish Tax List" in that town, of date Nov. 9, 1750; that William Cox and Charles Cox were there freeholders in 1758, and one John Cox, of that town, was a signer of the "Association Test" in 1776, wherein the signers pledged their opposition, with arms, to the "Hostile proceedings of the British Fleets and Armies against the United American Colonies."

WILLIAM COX came to Kent in 1770 or 1771 with Colonel Rogers for whom he worked in clearing land and preparing a home on the farm pitched by Rogers for his homestead, taking in payment land for his own home at two shillings per acre. At this time William was unmarried and one of the youngest members of Rogers' party. He married Sarah McCollop, or McCaleph as sometimes written, and two traditions have come down through the years regarding his marriage. His bride had been employed in the family of Colonel Rogers, and one story is that his marriage took place in Kent, being the first marriage in the town; and the other states that they were married in Londonderry, N. H., their old home, and made their wedding journey through the woods to Kent, she riding upon a horse which also bore a bed, a dinner pot and other household necessities while he walked by her side throughout the long, weary miles to the new home



selected by him and where they lived until his death, Mar. 8, 1816, at the age of 67. His wife survived until Feb. 9, 1837, to the age of 94 years. Both are buried at the "Lowell Lake Cemetery."

In the S.A.R. list of Revolutionary soldiers buried in Vermont, William Cox, of Londonderry, Vt. is mentioned but no further basis for the claim that this William, though the only one of that name residing here in the days of the Revolution, actually served in that war.

The same name appears several times in Goodrich's VERMONT REVOLUTIONARY ROLLS and, in one instance, at least, there seems to be warrant for the belief that this William is the one mentioned, but definite proof is lacking.

In Hemmenway's VERMONT HISTORICAL GAZETEER it is stated that William and Sarah had five sons and three daughters, but we find definite information only as to one son, John 2nd.

The town records show the marriage of Mary Ann Cox to Asa Beebe, (or Beeby), of Peru, June 7, 1807, and marriage of Sally Cox to John Wiley, Nov. 9, 1817, but nothing to show whether they were related to William and Sarah.

John Cox 2nd, born Nov. 18, 1774, married Elizabeth, daughter of Frederick Rogers, an early settler of Andover, Vt., and made his home on the farm now occupied by Warren L. Wright, where he built a log house and cleared land. A list of their children, as furnished by one of their granddaughters, names John, James, Benjamin, William, Laura, Sarah, Betsey, Nancy and Mary. There was at least one other daughter, Lucy, who died May 2, 1856 at the age of 35 years and is buried in the Simonsville cemetery; and another list names Irene and Caroline as two of their daughters, but this second list gives only two sons, Benjamin and William, which gives reason to doubt its reliability in the naming of the daughters. The father, John 2nd, was a resident of this town until his death, Oct. 14, 1828, when he lost his life by falling from the bridge which formerly spanned West River at the present homestead of Horace G. Alexander. He was intoxicated at the time and that condition occasioned the accident. Rev. Philetus Clark preached his funeral sermon from the text, "Died Abner as a fool dieth (II Sam. 3,33), and the discourse is said to have been as pointed and caustic as the text would indicate.

So strongly did the Parson allude to the circumstances of the death that the widow arose and left the room, nor could she be induced to return, in spite of the urging of her friends, and she permitted the services to be completed in the absence of the chief mourner.

She was, as her neighbors and acquaintances termed it, "a high tempered" woman, and was locally known as "High Betty"; and there were not wanting those who thought the sharpness of her tongue and the robust

vigor of her temper afforded some occasion, if not even excuse, for her husband's occasional, if not frequent, resort to the cup.

Of their children, other than Benjamin, information is scanty or lacking. *John* is said to have removed to Oberlin, Ohio.

*James* married Hannah French and moved to Lebanon, N. H.

*William* married Louisa J. McIntyre, and died Oct. 18, 1867.

*Laura* married Caleb Woodcock.

*Sarah* married Luther Dutton.

Of Betsey, Nancy and Mary no definite data can be found.

*Benjamin* was twice married. His first wife was Caroline Farnsworth, who bore him three children, only one of whom, Caroline Rosina, lived to "grow up," or of whom there is any record. She married Alfred Bolster. His second wife was Delilah Rachel Edson and their children were:

Elias Edson, July 12, 1845, married Annie Patten, had two children and died at Providence, R. I., Mar. 24, 1917.

*John Manning*, July 30, 1847, died Dec. 29, 1847.

*James Elwell*, July 9, 1849, married Mary Glynn, had five children and died at Pomona, Cal., Mar. 4, 1916.

*Estelle Delilah*, Aug. 4, 1852, married Charles P. Sherwin and had six children.

*Dorran Benjamin*, Nov. 6, 1855, married Louise Jacobs, who died after bearing him one child. His second wife was Agnes Bemis, and he died at Pomona, Cal., Apr. 2, 1916.

JOHN COX came to Kent about the same time as his brother William, and with their brother Robert, probably in the following year.

At that time, and for several years thereafter while preparing his home, it appears he was unmarried. In 1787 he married Mary, widow of Robert McCormick, and they resided on the farm he cleared until his death, Aug. 9, 1829. A list of their children, as recorded in the Town Clerk's office, names but four: John Jr., Dec. 23, 1787; Jenny, Sept. 29, 1789; Samuel, Mar. 6, 1792, and Nancy, May 1, 1794.

It is believed that at least one child was born to them subsequent to the entry of this record. Nov. 9, 1817 one Sally Cox, of this town, married John Wiley. At that time there was no family named Cox resident here other than those of William and John; and William had a daughter named Sarah who married Luther Dutton, Jan. 12, 1815, and bore him several children, and it is probable that this Sally was a daughter of John and Mary.

*John Jr.* married Phebe, oldest daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Wheeler) Arnold, and remained in town but few years before removing to Wyoming, N. Y. where both he and his wife died.

*Jenny* never married. She became insane and died in the Asylum at Brattleboro, Vt.



*Samuel* went to "York State," but at what date is uncertain. May 13, 1846 he executed a quit-claim deed of his deceased father's old homestead to William Stevens, who then lived on the premises, and in the deed is described as "of Watertown, Oswego County, State of New York." No further information regarding him is found.

*Nancy* married William Stevens and they spent their lives on the old homestead her father cleared. Her husband survived her many years and the premises passed to their son, Alonzo S., who occupied the same for many years and until late in his life.

## Davis

Various individuals and families bearing the name Davis have been residents of Londonderry and the task of tracing their connection or relationship, if such really exists, is impossible of performance.

Among the early residents of the town, however, we find representatives of two stocks bearing this family name, each, so far as facts can be ascertained, apparently distinct from the other and unrelated by ties of blood.

## Samuel Davis

The name first appears in Londonderry records in a deed of date March 28, 1793, from Robert Anderson to Samuel Davis, conveying land in that part of ancient Londonderry which is now Windham. Samuel Davis, the grantee, is described as "of Chesterfield, New Hampshire."

By means of the record of two later deeds to the same grantee we locate him, in January, 1807, in Pelham, N. H., and in January, 1811 in Nottingham West, N. H. He resided in Pelham as early as 1797, at least his son Amos was born there May 10th of that year. The Londonderry land, conveyed to him in 1811, was in the northwest part of the town where he established his homestead and it is probable that he settled here at about that date. His name next appears in the Land Records in a deed of date June 20, 1816, when his residence is given as in Londonderry.

Upon authority of one of his grand-daughters it is stated that he was twice married and had eleven children, though none of the children of the first marriage are said to have come to Vermont.

His second wife was Deborah Tarbox and their children, upon the same authority, were four sons; William, John, Grovenor and Amos, all of whom lived in town for some part of their respective lives and some until the end of life.

*William* married Mary Sargent, and died in Londonderry, Dec. 12, 1869, at the age of seventy-five years. He had four sons and five daughters:

William, Gilman, Alfred, Merrill D., Hannah, Mary, Eliza, Emeline and Martha (the order of birth uncertain).

*William* married Betsey Batchelder, had two sons, who died in boyhood, and three daughters: Chestina, Hattie and Ina, who lived to maturity. His mature life, or most of it, was spent in Weston, Vt.

*Gilman* married Lucy Wyman and had seven children: Leroy G., Charles (who died in infancy), Charles (second of that name), Frank E., Martha, Adaline and Florence.

*Alfred* married ——— Steele and had one daughter, Ida.

*Merrill D.* married Salome Rowell, but had no child.

*Hannah* married John G. Walker of Peru, Vt. and had a son and a daughter.

*Mary* was twice married; 1st to Joseph Utley, 2nd to Israel Lampson.

*Eliza* married Clark Simpson and moved to Michigan where she died.

*Emeline* married Henry K. Hall and had two sons, Fred and Frank.

*Martha* married Austin Rowell and died childless.

*John* married Mercy Allen, who died childless, in 1855 in this town. It is said he never married again, but no further information about him is found.

*Grovenor* married Mary Farnum and lived in Landgrove. His children were Robert, John, Henry W., Gardner (who died in infancy), Nancy, Susan, and Ann.

*Robert* married Josie Nichols and had two sons and a daughter.

*John* married Betsey Roby and had a son, Alvin J., and a daughter who married H. S. Dow.

*Henry W.* married Belle Moffat and had a daughter who married James Thayer.

*Nancy* married Daniel Eddy, lived in Landgrove and had two sons.

*Susan* married Horace H. Harlow to whom she bore three daughters and a son. One daughter and the son died in childhood.

*Ann* married Myron Piper and died childless.

## Silas Davis

SILAS was the oldest of five sons of Richard and Lois (Whitney) Davis, born Aug. 11, 1772. His parents moved from Lincoln, Mass. to Jaffrey, N. H. soon after the birth of their second son, Solomon.

Dr. Cutter's published HISTORY OF JAFFREY refers to him as a descendant of Dolor Davis who came from England in 1634 and settled in Cambridge, later moving to Concord, Mass. He was on the tax list in Jaffrey, from which town he came to Londonderry, Vt., in 1801 and took deed of land in Londonderry Feb. 2, 1802, in which deed his residence was given as in Londonderry. He was twice married; first to Susannah Tenney, by whom



he had five children: William, May 16, 1806; Mehitable, Sept. 22, 1809; Sally, Jan. 16, 1812; Elzina, Feb. 21, 1814; and Alvin, Dec. 14, 1817.

His second wife was Phebe (Westcott) Shattuck and their children were: Phebe M., Aug. 20, 1822, and Nathaniel Silas, June 29, 1827.

The last named was accustomed to write his name Silas N., and was familiarly and commonly known as "Thad."

*William* went to Kentucky, where he married Sarah A. ———, and resided in that State until after the birth of his children.

He had twin sons, Willard and William, and a daughter, Malvina.

His son Willard died in Texas and William lived for some years in Orange, Mass. William, the father, later returned to Londonderry and died here. Nothing further can be learned of his family, save that his daughter was married.

*Mehitable* married Alexander Shumway Whitney and died childless.

*Sally* married Avery B. Stowell. (See STOWELL FAMILY SKETCH.)

*Elzina* married Luther Stowell. (See STOWELL FAMILY SKETCH.)

*Alvin* married Elnora Atwood and had one son, Eugene M., who married Ella M. Estabrook, and died, Jan. 23, 1910, in this town leaving no issue.

*Phebe M.* married Lord Sterling, had a daughter and died at Weymouth, Mass.

*Nathaniel S.* never married but lived in town until his death, Nov. 24, 1895.

## Solomon Davis

SOLOMON, brother of Silas, was the second son of his parents, born Apr. 24, 1774, and was taxed in Jaffrey, N. H. as late as 1799 and was described as of Londonderry, Vt. in a deed of land in Londonderry dated April 16, 1803. The time of his coming here cannot be more definitely fixed.

He married Hannah Wright and they had five children: Solomon W., Oct. 20, 1808; Lydia, March 8, 1811; Betsey, July 15, 1813; Hannah, May 15, 1816, and Daniel, Jan. 8, 1819; they remained residents of town until death.

*Solomon W.* married Harriet Rider and their children were Solomon Olin, Harriet, Abby A., and Moses Alden.

*Lydia* married Stephen Dudley and had six sons and four daughters.

*Betsey* married Parkhurst Stevens and had two sons and two daughters.

*Hannah* died in childhood.

*Daniel* married Laura Rider and had five sons: Daniel W., Donald W., Denzel W., Dorr W. and De Witt.

*Delia* married Peter Dudley.



Solomon Olin married Marcia Abbott and they had seven children: Ernest Solomon, who married Minnie L. Jenkins and had a son, Solomon Wesley; Earl L., who died in early manhood unmarried; Orrie B., who married Lyle O. Pierce and died childless; Charles Abbott, who married Lucy E., daughter of Frank E. and Flora (Abbott) Davis, who died leaving a daughter, and he later married Mary Stillson and they have had four children; Rose E. and Abbie Harriet who are unmarried, and Everett Olin who died in infancy.

*Harriet* married Ora S. Abbott and died without issue.

*Abby A.* married Edwin F. Sterling, had a son and a daughter and died at Weymouth, Mass.

*Moses Alden* lived for years on the old homestead of his father and his grandfather, married Lucy Marshall, had one daughter, and moved to Chester, Vt. where he died.

*Daniel W.* married Mary I. Vanduzee and was for many years a merchant in Chester, where he died, July 16, 1920. He had two sons: Fred W., who married Grace E. West, and Walter F., who was twice married; first to Nellie Stoddard and second to Marion W. Jones.

*Donald W.* went to the far northwest where his mature life was spent. His first wife was an Indian woman by whom he had a son, Jeff, and a daughter, Julia. His second wife was Lillie Grier and they had six children, of whom we have the name of but the oldest, Chester, who died of wounds received in the "World War." He was a member of the Canadian Parliament for some fifteen years and died at Dawson City.

*Denzel W.* married Lizzie W. Gould and had two daughters: Daisy W., who married Benjamin A. Sandy, and Ida L., who married Carl H. Laws. He died in Minneapolis, Minn.

*Dorr W.* married Ella M. Meade and had three sons: Norris M., who married Winifred L. Henry; D. Wesley, who married Alice E. Johnson, and Guy W., who was twice married, first to Sadie C. Hunsdon, and second to Lucinda Dorsey.

*DeWitt* married Isadore S. Wilson and they had four sons: Don W., D. Watson, Dan W. and Dwight W. DeWitt survived his first wife and married Allie C. Amsden who bore him a daughter, Laura A., and a son, DeWitt, Jr. He resides on a farm in Chester.

## Gibson

SILAS GIBSON, with his wife, came to Londonderry from Ashby, Mass. in 1800 and resided here during the remainder of their respective lives.

He was the fourth child of Arrington and Mary (—) Gibson, and was born in Lunenburg, Mass. He married Damaris Bennett in 1773 and they lived in Lunenburg and Ashby until coming to Londonderry. He was a



descendant, in the fourth generation, of John Gibson who was born in England and came to Cambridge, Mass. about 1631, tracing his descent down through John Jr., Deacon Timothy and Arrington.

He was a soldier of the Revolution, a private in Captain George Kimball's Company; marched from Lunenburg on the Lexington alarm, Apr. 20, 1775, serving ten days; also a private in Captain Joseph Bellows' Company, Oct. 1, to Oct. 19, 1777. So far as the records disclose, he, at no time, held title to any land in town, but came here with his son Arrington and had a home with him until his death, as did his wife who survived him.

His children were: Arrington, Mar. 14, 1774; Nathan, Jan. 3, 1776; Silas, Mar. 25, 1778; John, May 25, 1781; Damaris, May 10, 1784; Mary, Apr. 22, 1787; Sarah, ———, 1789, and Abigail, May 18, 1796.

He also had an adopted son, Ichabod, who was a physician, but who never came to this town to reside. All of these children, born to him, resided in town and, excepting Silas, died here.

*Arrington*, then of Leominster, Mass., in Sept. 1800 purchased the farm at the Middle-of-the-town now known as the Collins place, but when he began living there is somewhat uncertain. May 5, 1803 he married Polly (Mary) Cochran, of Londonderry, and from that date until his decease that farm was his home. He was a man of some prominence and much influence in town affairs. At one time he was a licensed Inn-keeper and his "tavern" was his farm house, still standing and occupied though it long ago lost its public character. His children were: Sylvia, Apr. 24, 1804; Betsey, Sept. 8, 1808, and Ruel, June 3, 1811.

*Sylvia* married Doctor Jairus B. Collins who built the house south of her father's home, near the schoolhouse, and on a part of his farm, where they lived until her husband acquired the farm of her father, when they moved to the old homestead and there spent the remainder of their lives.

Four children were born to them; Nancy C., who married T. J. Stevens and moved from town; Jairus Irenus, familiarly and generally known as "Jack," who spent many years in the far west but came back to the old home in broken health and lived with his brother until his death which followed not long after his return; Emeline E. who lived on the old homestead all her life, dying unmarried, and Henry H. who never married, but occupied the ancestral farm until near the end of his life then disposing of the main farm but retaining the house built by his father, in which he was born and where he died.

*Betsey* married Foster A. Wheeler and went to California where she died.

*Ruel* married Emily Barnard and survived her many years. In his old age he returned to the home of his boyhood and spent his last years with his nephew, Henry H. Collins. He had five sons; Francis N., Albert B., Cyrus H., Charles R. and Benjamin Arrington. Francis N. was a member of the 9th N. H. Vols. in the Civil War. He married Mary A. Bellows, a

descendant of Colonel Benj. Bellows, founder of Walpole, N. H., from whom Bellows Falls derives its name, and had three children; Ellen C., Charles Bellows and Charles O. Albert B. married Ellen T. Hooper and had a daughter, Mabel H. He served in the Civil War in Co. I, 9th N. H. Vols. Cyrus H. died in Chicago, Ill., unmarried. Charles R. married Jennie Parles but had no child. Benjamin Arrington was a lawyer and practiced in Denver, Colo. He married Mary Cushing and had children; Alex. Cushing, Benj. Cushing and Pauline E.

*Nathan* purchased land in Londonderry earlier than his brother Arrington, taking deed in 1798 from James Rogers, son of Col. James the original proprietor of Kent; but, as in the case of his brother Arrington, it is uncertain when he came here to reside. At the date of his deed from Rogers he was "of Leominster," Mass. May 2, 1805 he married Mary (Polly) Hasey, both then being residents of Londonderry; and he lived here until his death, Oct. 21, 1847. In the Town Clerk's office is found a record of the births of four who were the fruit of his marriage; Dorothy, Mar. 24, 1806; Damaris, Sept. 16, 1807; Samuel, Mar. 17, 1809, and Ichabod, Apr. 14, 1811. There were two other daughters, Mary and Betsey, and, it is said, a son, Robert, evidently all born subsequent to the entry of the record mentioned.

*Dorothy* died, unmarried, Aug. 21, 1825.

*Damaris* married Abel Adams and had a family of four sons and three daughters who lived to maturity and married.

*Samuel* is believed to have died unmarried, and in early life, as nothing in reference to him, save his birth, appears on the records and nothing has been learned from survivors of the family.

*Ichabod* was three times married. His first wife was Sarah Fish who bore him a son, Samuel, who died in infancy, and two sons and two daughters who lived to maturity. These were Lydia who married Page A. Warner and had a daughter who married George Babbett; John W. who married Julietta Cole and died in town, June 16, 1877, leaving a son, Alvarado C., and a daughter who married Frank A. Curtis of Londonderry; William H. who was a member of Co. G, 11th Vt. Vols. in the Civil War and who married Emma ———; and removed to Cambridge, N. Y. where he died without issue; and Sarah, who married Alfred B. Wilcox and lived in Cambridge, N. Y. Ichabod's second wife was Mrs. Isabanda (Cole) Harrington, and his third was Mrs. Sarah (Mason-Hulett) Underwood. There was no issue from the last two marriages. He remained in town until shortly before his death and then went to his daughter Sarah's home where he died.

*Mary* married Willard Brown and had a daughter Maria, and perhaps others of whom we have not the names.



*Betsey* married Leonard Howard and had a son, Niles, and a daughter, Hattie A., who married George S. Curtis.

*Robert* is one of whom we only know that it is said such a son was born to Nathan and his wife, and that he "went off west" many years ago.

*Silas* married Abigail, daughter of Jonathan and Bathsheba (Bennett) Gibson, of Grafton, Vt., and is said to have had eight children, one being Nathan, born in Grafton, Feb. 7, 1804. He moved to "the west" and died at Mt. Morris, Ill. in 1861.

*John* married Elizabeth (Betsey) Cochran and spent his life in town. He was a physician and practiced his profession in this and surrounding towns for many years, traversing the hilly roads in a two-wheeled "gig" or "chaise" said to have been specially constructed for him to give a space for his unusually long legs. His home was on the farm on the hill road, now owned by Robert Batstone, where he built the brick house still standing, and there he died, May 2, 1866. He never had any child and, being of strong religious belief and anxious to aid in support of an educated ministry, provided by his will that what remained of his estate at the death of his widow should pass to a western college absolutely.

*Damaris* never married but lived in town until her death, Oct. 30, 1841. She was always deeply interested in the welfare of her church, the old Presbyterian—later Congregational—organization, and gave a small farm situated on the road from the Middle-of-the-town to Thompsonsburg for a parsonage, the first in town.

*Mary* married Lyman Whitman, lived in town and had four children. (See *Whitman Family Sketch*.)

*Sarah* died young and unmarried.

*Abigail* married Eleazar Houghton and had four sons and three daughters; Benjamin B., Silas, Levi, Stephen O., Betsey, Maria and Mary.

Another branch of the Gibson family, also tracing descent from John Gibson of Cambridge, Mass. (1631), has representatives in Londonderry.

Isaac W. Gibson was born in Grafton, Vt. Mar. 14, 1810, the second son of Isaac and Keziah ——— Gibson, his mother being the second wife of his father and, previous to their marriage, "widow Hayward."

His descent is traced through Isaac, Nathaniel (who moved from Lunenburg, Mass. to Grafton,—then Thomlinson, Vt. about 1783), Isaac, Deacon Timothy, and John Jr., to John (1631). He married Maria Wait, May 28, 1837, and about that time settled in Londonderry. His children, all born in Londonderry, were; Abbie S., Aug. 26, 1838; Margaret L., Mar. 14, 1841; William L., Oct. 15, 1844; Warren H., May 25, 1849, and Lina D., Aug. 26, 1855.

*Abbie S.* married Charles A. Pierce, of Manchester, Vt., whom she survives. Their home was for some time in Bennington, Vt.; later she lived in

Northampton and in Waltham, Mass. Her children were; Charles W., Warren W. and Nettie M., all of whom married and had issue.

*Margaret L.* married Myron W. Utley, of Manchester, Vt., and survives him. She had a son and a daughter, both of whom married and have families.

*William L.* married Saville Stowell, of Londonderry, and resided here until his death, Jan. 23, 1909. He held various town offices for a long series of years and was prominent in the affairs of the town.

He had two sons and two daughters; Ernest Willard, Dec. 29, 1871; Arthur Avery, May 25, 1873; Helen Elma, July 5, 1873; and Marion Lina, Jan. 4, 1882.

*Warren H.* after being in business here for several years with his brother William L., removed to Michigan and for many years preceding his death was engaged in the marble and granite business. He married Laura Kettell, of Stephentown, N. Y., and had a son, William H., who is a dentist in Grand Rapids, Mich. and had two children.

*Lina D.* was twice married. Her first husband was Burton Roberts, of Palmer, Fla., and after his death she married Albert I. Hewes, of Chicago, Ill. She died in Londonderry, Apr. 25, 1917, leaving no child.

*Ernest W.*, son of William L., graduated from Norwich University in the Class of 1894; is a lawyer by profession, located at Brattleboro; for a time principal of the High School in Chester, and married Grace Fullerton Hadley of that town. He was long connected with the State Militia as an officer of his local Company; served overseas in the World War and, after his return became Colonel of the Vermont Regiment of militia. In 1923 he was elected Representative to Congress from the second District of Vermont. Four children have been born to him; Frank Hadley, June 9, 1899, (died July 1, 1922); Ernest William, Mar. 6, 1901; Doris, Sept. 23, 1903, and Preston Fullerton, Jan. 22, 1908.

*Arthur Avery* died Feb. 20, 1881.

*Helen Elma* married Roy F. Rounds and lives in town.

*Marion Lina* married Wallace Grover and also lives in town. Her children; Walter J. and William S. were born Aug. 30, 1920, the first named dying two days later, and Edward W. born May 23, 1922.

## Goddard

EDWARD GODDARD was born and lived in Norfolk County, England, and at one time was a wealthy farmer but in the "Civil War" he espoused the cause of the Parliament which brought about the despoiling of his house and goods by a company of Cavaliers, and by oppression his property was much reduced. He soon after died.



His seventh son, William, came over to New England in 1765 and, in the following year, was joined by his wife and three sons, William, Joseph and Robert, who were the survivors of a family of six children born in London.

William, the father, had his home in Watertown, Mass. and there six other children were born to him and his wife, Elizabeth (Miles), three of whom died in childhood while three sons, Benjamin, Josiah and Edward, survived him. He died in 1691 and his wife in 1697.

From Edward, his youngest son, descended those of the family name who have resided in this town and in Windham. The home of this Edward was in Framingham, Mass. He and his wife, Susannah (Stone), had nine children, the oldest of whom was Edward who settled in Shrewsbury, Mass. and whose wife was Hepzibah Hapgood. They had eight sons and four daughters of whom the second child, and oldest son, was Nathan, a farmer of Orange, Mass. Nathan married Dorothy Stevens and they had seven children; Hepzibah, Nathan, Ebenezer, Dolly, Asa, Eunice and Lois.

From two of these sons, Ebenezer and Asa, descended the Goddards of Londonderry and Windham, Vermont.

Ebenezer married Anna Woodward, of Orange, Mass. and had a family of six sons and four daughters. Only three of these sons, Samuel, Enoch and Jonas, and one daughter, Lovisa, appear to have been even remotely connected with the history of either Londonderry or Windham.

*Samuel*, the second son, settled in Windham where he purchased a farm in 1803. While he owned various parcels of real estate in Londonderry, there is no satisfactory evidence of his having ever made the latter town his home. He was twice married and had two children, Achsah and Ira, both of his first marriage. His first wife was widow Anna Babbitt and his second was a widow Hunt, of Brattleboro.

*Enoch*, the third son and fourth child of Ebenezer and Anna, married Esther Bliss, of Royalston, Mass., came to Vermont and settled in Windham, where he lived for some years, and then moved to South Londonderry lived for a time, returning to Windham in his old age making his home with his daughter Lemira and her husband until his death in January, 1867. He had eleven children, who were; John, Aug. 17, 1805; Bliss, Sept. 10, 1806; Lemira, Nov. 7, 1808; Emery, Feb. 11, 1811; Daniel, Nov. 19, 1812; Esther W., Aug. 21, 1814; Susan, Apr. 6, 1816; Nelson W., Dec. 17, 1817; John William, July 20, 1819; Josiah, May 5, 1821, and Timothy B., Nov. 28, 1823.

*John* died in infancy.

*Bliss* married Eliza Stearns who bore him four children; Emily A. who married Ceylon D. Farnum and had three daughters, two of whom survive.

*Henry J.* married Abbie J. Peabody and had a son and a daughter. He lived for a time in South Londonderry and then moved to Wisconsin.

*Josiah A.* married Luella Babbitt by whom he had Hallie A., who died unmarried, and Milon.

*David B.*, youngest of the children of Bliss and Eliza, was a member of Co. G, 11th Vt. Vols., enlisting at the age of 18. He married Mary A. Temple and had two children, a daughter who died in early childhood, and Rowe S. who married Maud Tolman and, since her decease, has married again, but has no children.

*Lomira* married George Dutton and lived in Windham, where she died in February, 1889. She had four sons and two daughters.

*Emery* died in his third year.

*Daniel* never resided in Londonderry. He was married three times and had four children; Caroline, Frederick, Waters and Edward, all of his first wife, Delia Waters. We have not the name of his second wife, but the third was Betsey Arms.

*Esther W.* married Lucius Abbott and spent most of her mature life in Londonderry. Her children were; Everett, Ora S., George T., Marcia, Rose and Charles. Her second and third sons enlisted and served in the War of the Rebellion.

*Susan* married William Hastings to whom she bore two sons and two daughters.

*Nelson W.* married Sarah Delia Gibson and had two sons, Myron Bliss and Willie, both of whom died in youth or early manhood. He never lived in Londonderry. He worked for many years in the Estey Organ Shops at Brattleboro and went back to that town when broken by ill health and advancing age and died there.

*John William* was drowned in his boyhood.

*Josiah* married Mary Jane Farnum, and came to Londonderry in 1852, and spent the rest of his life here, for many years owning and managing the meadow farm at Thompsonburg which was originally pitched and improved by the Millers who were among the earliest settlers in town. He had three daughters; Abbie J., who married John Ramsdell and had one son, Herbert J.; Laura A., who married Reuben Copp and died in 1872, childless; and Emma L. who married Fred C. Rand, whom she survives, and had a son, Ray J.

*Timothy B.*, Enoch's youngest child, lived for many years in Londonderry and in Landgrove on a farm adjoining Londonderry and, after his second marriage, went to Jewell township in Ohio where he remained until his death. His first wife was Fanny Jane Abbott who bore him seven children; Fannie, Lyman, Esther, Frank, Laura, Mary and Sarah. His second wife was Betsey Robinson, by whom he had Luna and two sons. Both sons died without issue.

*Lovisa*, second daughter of Ebenezer and Anna, married Elisha White, of Royalston, Mass. and had several children, of whom a son, Lorenzo,



married Mary Coombs and resided in South Londonderry for many years. Lovisa died in Londonderry Oct. 29, 1816.

*Jonas* was the fifth son of Ebenezer and married Friendly Dean by whom he had two children. After her decease he married Roxana Smith, of Westmoreland, N. H. He was at one time a resident of South Londonderry where he seems to have been interested in the early industrial development of the village, coming here about 1818. Practically nothing is known by us about him or his family after his removal from town, which occurred after only a comparatively short residence.

*Asa*, a younger brother of Ebenezer, married Lucy Goddard, a distant cousin, and they had seven children: Lemuel, Lovina, David, Nahum, Lois, Dorothy, and Joseph. His second wife was Mary Tyler by whom he had Lucy, Esther and Amanda. Asa died June 3, 1828. Two of his sons became residents of Londonderry.

*David* married Zarina White and had a family of ten children.

He came to Londonderry and purchased a then unimproved tract of land which he began clearing and fitting for a farm and home. This was the same farm which has been for about three generations known as the Nahum Goddard farm, in the southeast part of the town. After he had been here but a short time, a few years, he sold the land to his brother Nahum and moved away permanently.

*Nahum*, who bought out his brother David's interests in town, married Mary Britnall, of Wendell, Mass. and they came to the newly purchased, partly cleared farm and, completing the clearing and improvement of the tract, made the same their home through the remainder of their long lives. They had two children: Henry W. and Lovina, and their wedded life extended over a period of almost fifty-five years. His wife died Mar. 20, 1872 and he survived her but nine days.

*Henry W.* was married three times. His first wife was Lucina Babbitt and the children of this union were two sons: Martin H., Feb. 26, 1844, and Ira, Aug. 8, 1848. His second wife, Charlotte Woodward, bore him one son, William H., Sept. 5, 1858; and by his third wife, Roxana Tufts, he had Nelson W., Jan. 15, 1866, and Clarence N., July 3, 1872. The father died Mar. 3, 1904.

*Martin H.* was a lawyer who lived in Ludlow and practiced his profession for many years and died there. He was twice married. His first wife, Emma A. Wilder, had one son, Henry M.; and his second wife, Alida Henderson, had three children; Emma, Agnes and Silas. Silas married ———, and has a son and a daughter.

*Ira* married Sarah A. Farnum and had sons Percy N. and Harry. Percy is unmarried. Harry married ——— and has one son and two daughters.

*William H.* married Amelia E. Campbell by whom he had Bertha B., Oel D. and Emma L. Oel D. was brought up in the family of A. J. Parker and, while not formally adopted, took the name Parker by which he was known until his death, in Londonderry. He married Alice Johnson and left a daughter, Isabel.

*Nelson W.* married Louise A. McQuaide and died May 2, 1920 leaving a daughter, Irene, surviving.

*Clarence N.* married Alice (Clayton) Pease and lives in South Londonderry. They have no children.

*Lovina* married Winfield Wright, whom she survived; and died, childless, at South Londonderry.

One Elisha Goddard, not of either branch of the family already traced in this sketch, appears to have been a resident of this town for a brief period. He took title to a small plot of land in the South village in a deed dated in Feb., 1822, and disposed of the same by deed in Dec. 1825, being named therein as resident of Londonderry. These dates seem to limit the term of his residence here.

In a genealogy of the Goddard family, published in 1833, it is said that Joseph Bacheldor Goddard was a Congregational clergyman in Londonderry, Vt. While it is possible that he was once a resident here, it is, from all available evidence, very improbable. In 1832, he took deed of the same plot of land described in the deeds to and from Elisha named above, and gave mortgage of same, being described in each as "of Winhall." Some years later the same plot was conveyed by his widow, Lucy (Lincoln), then of Petersham, Mass., her former home. No other reference to him appears in the records.

This Joseph B. was a son of Joel and Anna and great-grandson of Edward and Hepzibah (Hapgood), of Shrewsbury, and he had a cousin Elisha, son of Nathaniel, his father's brother; and that he was the Elisha referred to as resident from 1822 to 1825, seems probable under all the known circumstances.

## Hasey

JOHN HASEY came to Londonderry about 1790. In October of that year he, with Hugh Montgomery, took deed from Daniel Miller conveying land which is now a part of George N. Tuttle's homestead farm. Later Montgomery conveyed his interest to Hasey who resided on the premises until his death.

In the first of these conveyances Hasey is described as of Kingsbury, Washington County, New York, and of his antecedents we have not further knowledge. The best available information as to his family is to the effect that he had three daughters (possibly a fourth) and one son who



survived childhood, and a son who died young. These were Betsey, Sophia, Polly (Mary), and John, the order of birth being uncertain.

*Betsey* married Clark Aldrich (2nd) and moved "out west." (See ALDRICH FAMILY SKETCH.)

*Sophia* married Solon Hoskins, once a resident of Londonderry, and is said to have moved to Genesee County, New York.

*Polly (Mary)* married Nathan Gibson and remained in town. (See GIBSON FAMILY SKETCH.)

*John (2nd)* married Rhoda Emmons and lived in town until shortly after the death of his father, when he took his family to "the west," as the upper Mohawk Valley was then termed, and made his home in Genesee Co., N. Y. He had four sons; John (3d), Alfred, Samuel and Austin.

*John (3d)* married Albina Farnum, but had no children.

*Alfred* married Adaline ——— and had one son, Charles, who had a daughter, Hattie, and a son, Guy. Hattie married Will Brieese.

*Samuel* married Mary Anderson and had two sons and a daughter; James, George E. and Rhoda. Of these James had Ray, Fred, Mabel and George; George E. has no child; and Rhoda married Frank Austin and had a daughter, Josephine.

*Austin* married Caroline Whipple and had three children; Emma, Frank and John. Emma married Curtis Shepard and had two children; Edna and Rodney; Frank married Theodora Genung and had Ralph and Lottie; John married ——— and had several children. He made his home in Oklahoma.

Austin, with his brother Samuel, crossed the plains to California in the rush to the gold-fields in 1849. They were successful in their ventures and came back "across the isthmus" and settled in Wisconsin, where they invested in lands and established their homes.

## Hooker

JOHN HOOKER, born in Londonderry, Vt., May 19, 1803; died at Chilliscothe, Missouri, June 21, 1851; married in Londonderry, Sarah Eastman Warner, daughter of Jeremiah and Phebe (How) Warner of that town. Sarah was born in Londonderry, Vt. July 16, 1808, and on the death of her husband, she married secondly, in Sardinia, N. Y., Edmund B. Huntley, who later went to Minnesota and died there.

Sarah used to tell about when she was a little girl living with her parents at Whitehall, N. Y. at the South end of Lake Champlain, that she and her school mates would paddle around that end of the Lake in a little canoe, not at all afraid of the deep water, and that they often went out and played on board the British ships which lay there at anchor, some seven of them, being

the British ships captured by the American forces in the naval battle off Plattsburgh, N. Y. in the 1812 War.

Children were:

*Josephine R.*, born Londonderry, Vt., Dec. 21, 1829; died Nov. 7, 1847 in Sardinia, N. Y., unmarried.

*Adeline Elizabeth*, born Londonderry, Vt., April 25, 1836; married Barney Starks in Sardinia, N. Y. Their children were:

Charles, who died young.

Eugene, born Feb. 14, 1863; died at Ashford, N. Y., July 8, 1913.

Sarah Belle, born April 6, 1866; married George M. Mohr, Dec. 26, 1888 at East Ashford, N. Y. He was born Oct. 14, 1860. They had Mabel A.; Gladys B.; Gordon S.; Howard J.

*Charles J.*, born Londonderry, Vt., Jan. 4, 1839; married Mary E. Wilkes July 4, 1865. Served in Civil War, died Springville, N. Y. Children:

John W., born Jan. 28, 1867; married Mary M. Mansfield, Aug. 28, 1889; lived at Sinclairville, N. Y. and had Charles J.; Florence M.

Frederick H., born Nov. 13, 1868; married Carrie E. Kimbel, June 26, 1895; lived at Charlotte, N. Y. and had Mary Ellen, born Sept. 30, 1912.

*Arabella F.*, born Chillicothe, Mo., Jan. 26, 1847; married James Vanslyke in Sardinia, N. Y. and had several children. She lived in Holland, N. Y.

## Hopkins

JAMES HOPKINS came here from Londonderry, N. H., in 1777. In 1778, he was elected Town Clerk of Kent, being the second to hold that office in town, and was re-elected the following year. In 1782, he removed to Manchester, Vt., but was back in this town in the spring of 1784 and then again elected Town Clerk, which office he held for that and the three succeeding years. The date of his final removal from town is uncertain. He and his wife went to live in the family of their youngest son, Robert, and both died at his home in Sardinia, N. Y.

The farm which he purchased on coming here in 1777 was at the extreme north part of the town, adjoining that of Captain Edward Aiken at the "Great Pond." He is said to have been the best educated of any of the men in town at the time of his settlement in Kent; was a soldier of the Revolution, and said to have been a Lieutenant, for one winter in charge of a detachment stationed at Peekskill, N. Y.

His wife was Mary Ann McGregor, a sister of Margaret, the wife of Col. James Rogers. Their children were; Thomas N., May 4, 1776; Mary, Mar. 8, 1778; David MacGregore, Feb. 16, 1780; James, June 26, 1782; Margaret, Aug. 19, 1784, and Robert, Nov. 10, 1787. Of these the first was born



in Londonderry, N. H.; the fourth in Manchester, Vt., and the others in this town.

*Thomas N.* was a soldier in the War of 1812. He married Sarah (Sally), daughter of Nehemiah and Sarah (Glenne) Howe. (See HOWE FAMILY SKETCH.) They had seven children born in this town and, later, one in Fort Edward, N. Y. and one in Sardinia, N. Y. From the place of birth of the two youngest children, it would appear that he left Londonderry prior to 1819, going to Fort Edward, and then, in 1823, with others of the family, to Sardinia. His children were; Thomas, 1802; Eliza, 1803; Dudley, 1806; James M., 1807; Nehemiah, 1810; Robert N., 1812; Mary A., 1814; Nelson, 1819, and Clarissa, 1824.

*Mary* married Robert Larkin, of Londonderry.

*David MacGregore* is believed to have died unmarried, but no definite data, beyond the fact and date of his birth, has been found.

*James.* There is, in our Town Clerk's office, the record of the marriage of James Hopkins and Mrs. Clancey Daggett, April 13, 1820, and it is more than probable that the groom was this son of James and Mary Ann.

His age at the date mentioned leads to the question whether he had not, as well as his bride, contracted a former marriage. Positive knowledge regarding this is wanting, as is that of his children, if any there were.

*Margaret* married John Larkin and died, childless, at Dansville, N. Y.

*Robert* married Submit Howe and they had six children, of whom the youngest was born in Sardinia, N. Y. and the others in Londonderry; David, 1812; Daniel, 1814; James, 1816; Clarissa, 1818; Nancy, 1820, and William, 1824.

Robert moved to Sardinia in 1823 and then, or shortly thereafter, his parents became members of his family and so remained until they died.

He died, May 24, 1846, on the farm which he had opened up on settling in Sardinia, and which had been his home from that date.

Of the children of Thomas N. and Sally (Howe) little is known, save as to Thomas and Robert, his oldest and youngest sons.

*Thomas* moved to Sardinia with his father's family in 1823 and, three years later, there married Sarah (Sally) Hall by whom he had five children; Mary Ann, 1827, married 1st Zelotus Long, 2nd Joseph Garfield; Eliza Maria, 1834, married James Parks; Harriet C., 1837, married Edward H. Farrington; Nelson, 1842, died, unmarried, in 1912, and Charles D. who married Gertrude Holmes and resides (1924) at Chaffee, N. Y., the only survivor of his father's family.

*Eliza* married Samuel Crocker and had two sons and a daughter.

*Dudley* married Maria Wilson, but had no children.

*James M.* married Charilla Ballard and had six children; Daniel, Emery, Eliza, Millard, Sarah and Emma.

*Nehemiah* married Maria Butler and their children were; Byron, Lucy, Julia and Cornelia.

*Robert N.* married Sarah Carnaham and had Thomas, William S., Eliza and Jessie.

*Mary A.* No information as to this daughter is obtainable, and it is assumed that she died young.

*Nelson* married Mary Couch and their children were; Russell, Frederick and Florence. He was a lawyer in Buffalo, N. Y. and died there.

*Clarissa* married Amos Vredenburg and had daughter Sally and son George.

Of the children of Robert and Submit (Howe) our knowledge is even more meagre than in case of those of his brother Thomas.

As to the two older sons and two daughters information is wanting.

*James* remained with his father on the farm taken up at Sardinia and cleared by them, on which he lived after his father's death and for many years. He married Abigail Rider and had three children; Horace, who died in boyhood, Robert and Frank.

*William* married Susanna King and had five children, of whom we have the names of but three; Nancy, Clara and Ida. He died Sept. 10, 1873, at Sardinia.

## How — Howe

NEHEMIAH How came to Londonderry from Westmoreland, N. H. The exact date of his coming is not known, but a deed of date 1784 describes him as "of Londonderry." Late in 1787 he exchanged farms with David Cochran, conveying the place now (1923) owned by Edson E. Rowley and acquiring the farm later known as "the Faulkner Place," now forming part of "Mount Lake Farm." He was a grandson, as well as namesake, of that Nehemiah How who was captured by the Indians at the fort on the "Great Meadows" (Putney, Vt.), Oct. 11, 1745, and taken to Canada where he died, a prisoner, May 25, 1747. He was, also, a nephew of Caleb How who settled in Vernon, Vt. and was killed by Indians, June 27, 1755, and whose wife and seven children were at the same time carried as captives to Canada. The line of his ancestry runs back, through Samuel, Nehemiah and Samuel, to John How who resided in Sudbury, Mass. in 1639 and is said to have been a resident of Watertown, Mass. prior to that date. He was the second son, third of eight children, born to Samuel and Abigail (Dudley) How, his father being one of the most wealthy men in Westmoreland, of which town he was one of the grantees under the New Hampshire grant of 1752. Family tradition states that each of the children, save Nehemiah, received from their father a farm and that to Nehemiah he gave money with which to establish himself in Londonderry.



This younger Nehemiah married Sarah Glenne, of Westford, Mass., at Westmoreland, June 27, 1775. He was a Revolutionary soldier, serving in Captain Hastings' Co. of Colonel Asa Whitcomb's Massachusetts Regiment in 1775, and also in a Westmoreland Company of a New Hampshire Regiment in 1777. He had a family of nine children. The first son, Dudley, was killed by a falling tree and when the second son was born the same name, Dudley, was given him.

This second Dudley and all his sisters grew to maturity and all, save one, married. This generation adopted the present form of the family name, Howe. The children of Nehemiah and Sarah (Glenne) were: Dudley, born 1776 and died 1792, Abigail, Sarah, Clarissa, Phebe, Mary, Submit, Huldah and Dudley; the five youngest having been born in Londonderry, and perhaps Clarissa also.

*Abigail* married Jonathan Warner, of Londonderry, but no relationship can be traced between him and the husbands of her sisters, Phebe and Huldah.

*Sarah* married Thomas N. Hopkins and removed to Sardina, N. Y., where descendants of hers still reside. (See *Hopkins Family Sketch*.)

*Clarissa* died in Londonderry, unmarried, Feb. 15, 1874.

*Phebe* married Jeremiah Warner. (See *Warner Family Sketch*.)

*Mary* married Jonathan Emerson.

*Submit* married Robert Hopkins. (See *Hopkins Family Sketch*.)

*Huldah* married Daniel Warner, brother of Jeremiah, her sister Phebe's husband. (See *Warner Family Sketch*.)

*Dudley* married Polly Jennison and lived in town until his death, May 31, 1870. His children were: Mary, Alden, Albert N., Daniel, Emerson, Lorenzo Bradley, and William.

*Mary* married Alonzo S. Stevens and spent her life in Londonderry. She had two sons and three daughters: Martha, Albert, Ella M., Frank S., all of whom lived to maturity, and Addie who died in childhood. None of these children now survive.

*Alden* married Mary Stevens and had six daughters: Nancy, Adelaide, Angie, Ida, Emma and Caddie.

*Albert N.* married Emeline E. Melendy, daughter of Emery Melendy by his first wife, and lived for many years in town, removing about 1876 to New Hampshire and died there.

He had three children; Albert Webster, Ella Emeline and Fred Albert.

*Albert Webster* married and moved to Utica, N. Y. and died leaving a son surviving.

*Ella Emeline* married Leonard Boyce and had her home in, or near Swanzey, N. H. for many years. She has one daughter, Florence.

*Fred Albert* married ——— Richards and died leaving a surviving son. *Daniel* died unmarried.

*Emerson* married Elnora Dodge, but further information about him and his family is not available.

*Lorenzo Bradley* married Lorinda Abbott and had one daughter, Helen M. who was twice married, surviving both husbands. She has no child.

*William* married and lived in, or near, Worcester, Mass. No information as to name of his wife or children has been found, but it is said that he had two children, possibly more.

## McMurphy

Tradition, apparently well founded, asserts that George McMurphy was one of the two men who first "pitched" their lots and began clearing land in town for a permanent settlement, and that the tract he selected and worked upon was the farm on the hill between the two villages long known as "the Brooks place," later owned by John F. Johnson.

It seems well settled that he and his companion, Robert Montgomery, the latter accompanied by his brother Hugh, came here a little in advance of Colonel Rogers with his party of so-called original settlers.

How long he remained on the premises where he began his clearing is uncertain, but not any considerable time, for the place soon passed in to other hands, and he is later found at Thompsonburg, as now termed, where he had a saw mill on the brook at the site later occupied by the first tannery in town, built by Nathan Buxton.

His mill, with some of its product, was swept away by a freshet and still later he was the proprietor of the mill at the outlet of the "Great Pond." He removed to the easterly part of the town and had, at different periods, mills on different streams there. All these mills were rather primitive structures, as were most of the other buildings of that day in town, and would cut but sorry figure in comparison with those of the present in equipment or capacity.

Upon the dismemberment of ancient Londonderry and the incorporation of Windham these later mills, known as "McMurphy's" were within the latter town and it is not known that he ever after had interests in Londonderry.

Definite knowledge of his antecedents or ancestry is lacking, but he came from Londonderry, N. H. and is supposed to have been a descendant of that John McMurphy who emigrated from Ireland and joined the settlement in Londonderry, N. H. a very short time after its commencement and whose name appears on its earliest records, being one of the selectmen in 1722; the first representative of that town; representing the town, as member of the



General Court, eleven years and dying, at Portsmouth, Sept. 21, 1755 while a member of that body.

No records as to the wife or children, if any, of George are to be found.

## Montgomery

No representative of this family has had residence in town for more than a century past, and the following sketch, as to the antecedents of those once residents and the family of Hugh Montgomery, is based on information and data furnished by F. W. Montgomery, Esq., of Madison, Wis.

The family is said to be of Norman-French ancestry, descended, as asserted by some of its members who have delved into its history, from a member of the force which accompanied William the Conqueror in his expedition for the conquest of Britain in 1066. On the same authority, it is said that some of his descendants emigrated to Scotland in the early years of the 14th century, and thence to the North of Ireland in the reign of James I.

Hugh, one of his descendants, with his wife, Jean (McGregor), came over to Londonderry, N. H. in 1719 among the earliest settlers of that town. He had a son Hugh who married Elizabeth Martin, and three of their eight children became residents of ancient Kent; Robert, Hugh (3d) and Henry.

Robert and Hugh are said to have come here together and at the same time as George McMurphy, with whom they share the honor of beginning the first clearings in town with purpose of opening homes and tillable farms. They were here a year or two, at least, before Henry came.

Local tradition has long placed the site of the first Montgomery pitch and clearing on the Collins farm, so-called, marked on the town plot or map as "Gibson Pitch." Careful investigation has indicated that this is an error, and that the place must have been on the farm north of the alleged location. The first deed of the tract marked "Gibson Pitch" was from the "Committee," authorized by the State to dispose of Colonel Rogers' lands, to Henry Montgomery and bears date Jan. 27, 1782. On the same day this "Committee" conveyed to Hugh Montgomery the land next north of that described in the deed to Henry; and Hugh conveyed the same to Stephen Chaffee in 1794, his wife joining in execution of the deed.

Robert's name does not appear on the Land Records either as grantee or grantor but, on Oct. 29, 1782, the "Committee" conveyed to Hugh a tract on the westerly side of West River, in part described therein as "where he now lives," and begins the boundaries of the tract at "a rock on the east bank of West River, being Robert Montgomery's southeast corner."

Nothing more definite as to location of Robert's home, or farm, is to be found, and no knowledge as to his family is available, though it is said, and believed, that he was married prior to his coming to Kent.

Henry only held title to his land until Dec. 1782, when he sold to Abiel Eddy the "Gibson Pitch" which, however, was not so named until the ownership had passed from Eddy, through Royal P. Wheeler, to Arrington Gibson.

It is understood that Robert and Henry left town shortly after the latter sold his farm. Of Henry's family nothing is known.

Hugh (3d) was unmarried when he came to Kent and, in 1777, married Hannah Mack of that town, and resided here until 1796 or the early part of the following year. He was quite an extensive land owner during his residence in town; and held various town offices, holding some of the various offices each year from the organization of the town until his removal, since which time none of the Montgomery family have had residence in town. He had eight children, one of whom, Hugh (4th), married Irene Southworth and one of their children was Mack who married Jane Warren, and F. Warren Montgomery, who furnished much of the data from which this sketch was framed. The last named married Alice Brooks (Norris) and has sons and grandsons living in Wisconsin.

On leaving Londonderry, Hugh (3d) went to Manchester, Vt. where he purchased a farm at "Roberts Corners," so-called, and, in connection with his farming, kept a public house, or "tavern," for several years.

Later he went to Ontario County, N. Y. and took up land there. He was accidentally killed in 1819, while felling trees, being struck by a falling limb.

## Oughterson

JOSEPH OUGHTERSON came to Kent with Deacon Edward Aiken when the latter came to prepare his new home in the spring of 1772, making the journey on foot from Londonderry, N. H. He was then in the employ of the Deacon as his "hired man" and so continued for a time in the new home.

Later he married and established a home for himself on a pitched farm near, or adjoining, that of his former employer. All that we know of his wife is that her name was Martha.

His first homestead was in that part of Kent which is now Windham and so remained until the late fall of 1793 when he purchased the farm on the hill between the two villages in Londonderry, later known as the Brooks place, and still later as the John F. Johnson farm. This was his home from that time until 1798 or 1799. In Sept., 1798, he conveyed it to "Capt." Peter Aiken, who reconveyed to him in the following May. In the fall of 1799 he sold this farm to Ebenezer Smith and, probably, removed from town as his name is not thereafter connected with any lands in town, nor does it appear in any later records. During his residence here he held various town offices both in Kent and, after the change of name, in Londonderry and was a man of influence in the early days of the town.



He was also one of the ten grantees named in the Act of the Legislature in 1782 granting "Anderson's Gore," a tract lying between Londonderry, as then existing, and Thomlinson (Grafton), being described in the grant as "bounding east of Londonderry, containing about one thousand two hundred acres." Where he went upon his removal from Londonderry is not known; and all our knowledge as to his family is contained in a brief record in the early "Town Book," which gives "A list of the ages of the children of Joseph Oughterson and Martha, his wife" as follows: "Hannah, born Oct. 6, 1779; Jean, born Nov. 28, 1781; John, born May 12, 1784; Robert, born Aug. 25, 1788; James, born Feb. 15, 1793; Joseph, born Feb. 15, 1793; Samuel B., born May 8, 1795."

## Patterson

The *Pattersons* of Kent and Londonderry were, undoubtedly, descendants of one John Patterson to whom reference is made in the GENEALOGICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Therein it is stated that "The Pattersons of Manchester, Derry and other towns in New Hampshire are the descendants of John Patterson, a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, who migrated to Ireland and settled there in the first half of the seventeenth century. There his children, grand-children and great-grand children lived."

One of his great-grand sons, Peter, is said to have come to America and here became the progenitor of those of the name who later lived in the southern New Hampshire towns.

*James Patterson* came to Kent from Londonderry, N. H. He was one of Colonel Rogers' original band of settlers, and the oldest member of the party. His sons, or some of them, as is said, were young men at the time the family came here. He "pitched" his farm at the foot of the westerly slope of Glebe Mountain and there began his clearing on land now owned by Chas. E. Cromack. This was in part prepared for occupancy a year or two in advance of the coming of his family, other than those sons who aided him in such preparations; and this remained his home until his death, in 1787, when he was found dead in the field where he had gone alone to work. Definite knowledge of his family is lacking. The name of his wife and all the names, or even the number, of his children is not now to be ascertained. As in the case of too many of those families connected with the earliest settlement of the town, the later generations sought and made their homes in other, and often distant, localities where they practically lost touch completely with the old town and its residents. He was a prominent man in laying the civil and religious foundations of the new community, and at his home many of the early Town Meetings were held. From the data now to be found in the Grand Lists, real estate and other available records and the

little that can be learned from some of his descendants in the present generation, it seems certain that he had sons, John, Andrew and James, and a daughter, Rachel; and others of whom not even the names can be learned. The order of birth of those mentioned is uncertain.

*John* married Betheridge Morrison and occupied the old homestead from his father's death until the end of his own life, Apr. 11, 1831, when he was 75 years old. His wife and three children, Samuel, Mary and John, are said to have survived him. Two daughters died in early childhood; Betsey in 1798 at age of three years, and Betheridge in 1802, aged two years.

*Andrew* was a resident of town as late as 1783 in which year he was chosen one of the town officers; but of his descendants, if any there were, nothing can be found that appears reliable.

*James (2nd)* had a son, James, who died in 1798, aged 9 years, also sons Ebenezer and Nathan, and a daughter Polly. Probably there were other children in his family. Ebenezer removed to Westford, N. Y. and thence, in 1844, to Wisconsin, and died in Kansas in 1884. Our only knowledge of his descendants is that a grandson, E. H. Cameron, was living in Fondulac, Wis. as late as 1907. Nathan "went west" about the same time as Ebenezer and located in Michigan City, Ind. Polly married Luther Martin, who died in Londonderry in 1869 leaving her surviving. She had a son, who died in 1828 at the age of but few days, and a daughter who married Albert Chase, one time merchant in So. Londonderry, with whom she lived during her last years.

*Rachel* married James Magarr and, for a time resided on the farm adjoining her father's homestead on the west, later moving to Jamaica on a farm near the Winhall line. She and her husband are buried in the cemetery at Jamaica village.

She was born in 1748 and is said to have been married at Londonderry, N. H., her father's home before his coming to Kent.

She had a son, Andrew, who left home at the age of twenty years, and no more is to be learned of him; also a daughter, Susanna, two of whose great-grandchildren have been located: Mrs. Mary (Estabrook) Byers of Hoosick Falls, N. Y. and John McClellan of Jamaica, Vt.

The name of *Moses* Patterson appears in a list of the tax-payers of Londonderry, Vt. in 1799, but this is the limit of our positive information regarding him, though it seems practically certain that he was a son of James, the first settler.

*Samuel*, son of John and Betheridge (Morrison), married Charity Howard by whom he had fifteen children: Betridge, James, Betsey, Samuel, Almon, Horace, Bethiah, Hiram, Emily, John, Abigail, Daniel, Stephen, Arvilla, and a son and daughter who died in early infancy.

*Betridge* married Joshua Parker and had a son and a daughter.



*James* died unmarried and is buried at Lowell Lake.

Of Betsey, Bethiah and Emily nothing is learned except that one or more of them died unmarried.

*Samuel Almon* married ——— Garfield who bore him Haynes, Betsey, Etta, Selah, Ida and Ella; and for his second wife had Mrs. Amy (Bolster) Strong.

*Horace* married Deborah A. Tenney.

*Hiram* married Lucy A. Tenney and their children were: James A., John G., Charles N., Abbie E., Elwin E., Emma A., Ella C., Nellie M. and Lillian F.

*John* married Lydia A. Norcross.

*Abigail* married Sumner Rounds.

*Daniel* married Lucy A. Fenno.

*Stephen* married Corinda ———.

*Arvilla* married Joseph Watson.

(Children of SAMUEL ALMON PATTERSON)

*Haynes* married Mary Carrington.

*Betsey* died unmarried.

*Etta* married Owen R. Vesper and had three sons, one of whom died in infancy and the others in U. S. service in the Spanish-American War.

*Selah* married Jennie Ferry and had a son, Charles, indefinitely located "in the West."

*Ida* married William G. Hall and had sons Ernest, Don, and Arnold, and a daughter, Esther.

*Ella* married Byron R. Barnes and had a son, Howard A., and adopted daughter, Rose (Jackson).

(Children of HIRAM PATTERSON)

*James A.* married Nellie M. Petts and had four sons.

*John G.* married Lizzie R. Campbell and had four sons.

*Charles N.* married Abbie E. Pierce and had a son.

*Abbie E.* married Dennis J. Moran.

*Elwin E.* married Kate Mooney and had five children.

*Emma A.* married Eugene H. Whitman and had one daughter, now the wife of W. W. Van Ness, of West Townshend, Vt.

*Ella C.* married Frank L. Dunbar.

*Nellie M.* married Caleb Blakeslee, M.D. and, for second husband, H. O. Coolidge.

*Lillian F.* was twice married: Her first husband was Fred E. Burnham, and her second, W. A. Blythe, of Springfield, Mass.

*John*, son of John and Betheridge (Morrison) Patterson, is said to have married Sarah Caleff, of this town, but nothing more is known of them.

## Pierce

Representatives of this family name in Londonderry had not all a common origin in this country. Two distinct family lines appear, though they each began with an emigrant to Massachusetts prior to 1650.

If any relationship existed between the respective founders of these lines or stocks the connection ante-dated their emigration to America and must be sought overseas.

THOMAS PIERCE was born in England and came to New England about 1635, settling in Charlestown, Mass. where he died in 1666.

Benjamin Pierce, one of his descendants, tracing descent back through William, Sommers, William and Thomas, was born, May 18, 1762, at Wilton, N. H. He served in the Revolutionary Army, having enlisted at Wilton, Feb. 27, 1781, as private in Capt. Isaac Frye's Company of the first N. H. Regt. June 16, 1783 he was transferred to the Commander-in-Chief's Guard and was one of the twelve mounted infantry-men selected from the Guard to assist in moving the military effects and private papers of Gen. Washington to Mount Vernon. Having completed that service, he returned to West Point where he was mustered out December 20, 1783.

After his marriage he remained for some years in Wilton, N. H. and moved to Andover, Vt. about 1794-5. He purchased land in Londonderry in the fall of 1826 and moved into town some time later. His home was on the main road from Londonderry to Peru, at the extreme west side of the town, and was later known as the Henry A. Davis farm.

He was twice married. His first wife, Dorcas (Lovejoy) bore him nine children, the first five born in Wilton and the others in Andover, Vt., viz: Dorcas, Jan. 22, 1786, married Thomas Hall, died Sept. 7, 1853; Polly, Apr. 29, 1787, married Daniel Dodge, died Dec. 20, 1851; James, Aug. 17, 1789, married Mary Walker, died Apr. 12, 1813; Abiel, Mar. 21, 1791, married (1) Nancy Holt, (2) Hannah K. Manning, died Nov. 30, 1871; Asa, Mar. 17, 1793, married Betsey Dodge, died Dec. 7, 1858; Alvah, Oct. 6, 1796, married Dolly Baker, died Sept. 22, 1818; Nancy, Dec. 2, 1798, married (1) Israel Jewett, (2) David Putnam, died Aug. 4, 1862; Alanson, Aug. 27, 1801, married Hannah Burton, died Apr. 20, 1851; Abel, Apr. 1, 1803, married Harriet Dodge, died June 25, 1832.

*Dorcas*, the mother, died Aug. 15, 1817 and he later married Mrs. Nabby F. Dodge by whom he had four children, all born in Andover. These were: Abigail, Nov. 25, 1820, married George C. Mason; James, Dec. 22, 1822, died Oct. 21, 1842; Lucy, June 17, 1825, married Daniel P. Chittenden, died Feb. 7, 1896; Benj. Franklin, Feb. 7, 1828, married July Ely.

*Benjamin*, the father, died May 9, 1847 and was buried in Londonderry. His oldest daughters, Dorcas and Polly, had homes in this town for some



years and both died here. His son James (the second of that name) died in this town before reaching manhood. All the others of this family found homes in other localities. The fourth son, Alvah, lived and died in Andover, Vt., leaving an infant son, Alvah Warren, born June 26, 1818.

Some two years later, upon the re-marriage of his mother, this boy found a home in Londonderry in the family of his aunt Polly and her husband, Daniel Dodge, by whom he was brought up. He married Lydia W. Atwood, daughter of Deacon Peter C. Atwood, of this town, and removed to Illinois, where he resided until his return to Londonderry in 1846. He lived here until his death, May 30, 1898. His wife Lydia W. bore him four children: Leroy M., Jan. 14, 1842; Lydia Atwood, Dec. 6, 1844; Mary, Sept. 7, 1848; Frank, Aug. 26, 1853.

She died May 7, 1854, and he married Lucy C. Allen, daughter of Joseph Allen, of this town, and eight children were the fruit of this union: Clara, Mar. 16, 1856; Frank, Apr. 3, 1857; Ned, Feb. 10, 1859; Jessie, July 29, 1861; Ethan A., Sept. 24, 1865; Carson, Apr. 1, 1868; Florence, Jan. 29, 1874; Fanny, Feb. 18, 1877.

*Leroy M.* graduated from Middlebury College in the Class of 1866; from Andover Theological Seminary in 1869, and entered the ministry. His college course was interrupted by his entering the Christian Commission in 1864, with which organization he served with the Union Army in front of Petersburg and Richmond, as well as in military hospitals. But for such interruption he would have graduated in 1865. He married Catherine Billings at Arlington, Vt., in 1876.

*Lydia A.* married Rev. Robert Bayard Snowden to whom she bore eight children: Mary M., Willard, Laura H., Lillian P., Edith A., Evelyn S., Cora B. and Bayard B.

*Mary* married Moses M. Martin, who was ordained in the ministry at Middletown, Vt. in 1865, having graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary the preceding year. She had four children: Parlise, Persis L., Mellen C. and Blanche E. She was a graduate of Monticello Seminary, Godfrey, Ill. At one time she was preceptress in Black River Academy, Ludlow, Vt. and for a time just preceding her marriage was Head of the Latin Dept. in Monticello Seminary.

*Frank* died in infancy and was buried in this town.

*Clara* was for several years a teacher in the public schools, being so employed in Londonderry, Andover and Ludlow, Vt. and also in Illinois, leaving that work in the fall of 1879, when she entered the educational missionary work of the Presbyterian Church, under the Board of Home Missions of that denomination. Her field of labor was in Utah and she continued in that work until 1892, when, because of failing health, she left the mission field and went to California, where she graduated from the Normal School at San Jose in 1902.

*Frank* married Mary H. Ayer at Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1888, and made his home in that city. He graduated from Williams College in 1881, and chose the law as his profession. He began his professional study in the office of Hon. Ranney Howard in Manchester, Vt., later going to Utah as Agent's clerk in an Indian Agency there, and then continuing his legal studies in a law office in Salt Lake City where he was admitted to the bar and opened his office, still later taking partners into the office and forming a firm which took a leading position in the profession in that section. He has served as a member of the legislature of Utah and on the Board of Regents of the University of Utah.

*Ned* was twice married; first to Martha Gould, at Blackstone, Mass., and second, to Alice M. Morse, at Westminster, Vt. He has no children. He is located at Bellows Falls, Vt. and carries on the trade of slater and metal roofing.

*Jessie* married Albert M. Aldrich, of Londonderry, and they have son, Leon A., who married ———, and has one child, and resides with them of the farm long the homestead of Alvah Warren.

*Ethan A.* married Lillian Hatch and the fruit of their union was three sons, Warren H., Chester A., and Edward, and a daughter, Gertrude L.

*Carson* married Emma A. Turner, of Weston, Vt. and has one child, Florence E.

*Florence* died in infancy, at Londonderry.

*Fanny* married William W. Lilley and had one child, Lucy Annie, who died on the day of her birth.

Another descendant of Sergeant Thomas Pierce was Ezekiel P. Pierce who traced his lineage back to this original immigrant through John, William, Stephen, Stephen and Thomas. Ezekiel P. was at one time, but not for a long period, a merchant at the South village, though the records do not disclose any title to real estate held by him. His store was in the northerly end of the old hotel building which stood on the site of the present Riverside Inn. Just when he came here cannot be determined, but he went away about 1830, probably in that year. His nephew, Alfred, who succeeded him in the store business, took deed of the store premises, with other real estate, Sept. 6, 1830. Ezekiel P. returned to his former home, Chesterfield, N. H., where he lived on his father's old homestead for the rest of his life.

Alfred and John Langdon Pierce were brothers, being respectively the second and the ninth of the ten children of John and Judith (Thompson) Pierce, and the only sons of these parents. Their father was a brother of Ezekiel P. and thus they traced descent from Sergeant Thomas through the same channel. Prior to 1776 their father moved from Groton, Mass. to Chesterfield, N. H., whence they each moved to this town. It is said that he



took part in the Battle of Bennington, with other volunteers from Chesterfield.

*Alfred* was born in Chesterfield, N. H., Dec. 22, 1802 and was residing in that town in the fall of 1830, at which time he purchased the village farm and the old store in the upper end of the tavern building, and then moved to South Londonderry. He conducted a general store there, in the "tavern building," until 1839, when he purchased the store building at the head of the street, or square, and continued the same business in this latter location until he sold out to his brother, John L., in 1851. In 1839 he built the brick dwelling on the village square and occupied the same until his removal from town soon after his sale to John L., when he went to Hartland, Vt. where he spent the rest of his life and died in 1880.

He married Abigail Rockwood and they had four children:

*Mary H.*, June 30, 1831, who died Feb. 24, 1833.

*Francis M.*, Jan. 7, 1834, who married Helen M. Bishop and had two daughters. He moved to Hartland with his father and died in that town, Nov. 19, 1883.

*Mary Helen*, Oct. 24, 1836, who married Gen. Lewis A. Grant who won distinction in the Civil War and at one time commanded the old Vermont Brigade.

*Abbie Seanna*, Feb. 17, 1842, who married Charles H. Smith.

*John Langdon* was born Nov. 16, 1819. He came to Londonderry in 1844 and assisted his brother in his store. Two years later he married Ellen E. Marsh and continued in Alfred's employ until 1851 when he succeeded to the mercantile business and the village farm, by purchase. For a time was in partnership in this store with Frederick W. Marsh, brother of his wife, but this partnership was dissolved and, about 1863, he sold his stock of merchandise to one James L. Locke who conducted the business, renting the store from him, for about two years and then, being involved in financial difficulties, was sold out under execution, and the store was rented to various other parties by Pierce until he sold it, in ———, to ———.

He remained in town until 1874, then moved to Chester where he lived until the late summer of 1881 and then went to Fitchburg, Mass. and lived until his death, April 8, 1897. While conducting his store here he was for a time Postmaster and when he gave up the store business he kept the postoffice in his dwelling house.

He had two children: Frederick W. and Cora E.

*Frederick W.* married Alla Albee and remained in town until 1873 when he moved to Chester and there conducted a drug store for some years. Later he became Asst. Cashier of the National Bank of Chester, and was also president of Chester Savings Bank. He represented Chester in the Legislature of 1896 and resided there until 1906, then moving to

Fitchburgh and lived until his death, May 4, 1923. He had one son, John F. who was born in Londonderry, moved with his parents to Chester and was at one time proprietor of "Pierce's Pharmacy" at Bellows Falls. In 1898 he sold this business and two years later took up the study of law in the University of Virginia and later in a law office in Concord, N. H. He established himself in practice of his profession at Keene, N. H. in the fall of 1903 but was stricken with illness in April of the following year which proved fatal May 29, 1904. He was unmarried.

*Gora E.* never married but remained with her parents through their lives and still has her home in Fitchburg, Mass.

## Pierce

EZRA PIERCE was a son of Benjamin Pierce, who lived in Scituate and Attleboro, Mass. previous to his removal, about 1764, to Westmoreland, N. H.

He was a direct descendant, in the fifth generation, of MICHAEL PIERCE, who was born in England; emigrated to America about 1645; settled in Scituate, Mass. in 1647; was commissioned Captain in the Colony militia in 1669, and was killed, March 26, 1676, in a battle with the Indians against whom he led the Colony forces.

His home was in Westmoreland during his whole life, and he was a man of weight and influence in public affairs in his town and vicinity.

He married Rebecca ——— and the fruit of their union was a family of five children. Their fourth child, and older son, was Artemas, born July 10, 1779, who, while living in Westmoreland, married Hannah Goodridge, Feb. 28, 1804. He removed his family, then consisting of his wife and two daughters, from Westmoreland to Londonderry, Vt. about 1808.

He had previously purchased land on the westerly slope of Glebe Mountain, later known as the Collins Griswold farm, and had worked here for about two years. At that time he had cleared a tract of the land and erected a frame house on the premises, on the old road which then passed along and down the mountain side some distance east of the present "under-mountain-road." This house stood in the pasture almost due east from the upper end of the present "cross-road" leading up from the brook. Later, he moved this house down to the present highway, on the site of the house later built by Griswold and now standing.

Some years later he built an addition to it which exceeded the original structure in size. This dwelling was destroyed by fire some years since, while owned by Griswold. His children, all save the two first named, were born on this farm he had hewed out of the wilderness. They were: Eveline, Sept. 15, 1805; Mary R., Sept. 20, 1807; Rebecca L., July 9, 1810; Hannah, July 14,



1812; Jerusha H., Dec. 20, 1814; Gilman G., May 4, 1817; William, Nov. 26, 1819; Amarilla R., May 13, 1822, and Ezra, Oct. 22, 1824.

*Eveline* married Jason Buxton. (See BUXTON FAMILY SKETCH).

*Mary R.* married Joshua D. Parker, of Londonderry, and had two daughters; Eva Eveline, who married John A. Thomson and died childless, and Isabella, who died unmarried.

*Rebecca L.* married Oliver Clapp and had three daughters, none of whom married. Her second husband was Libbeus Gaskill by whom she had no child.

*Hannah* married William Barrows and they had twin sons, Gilbert and Gilman, and also a son William.

*Jerusha H.* married Emery Melendy, as his second wife, and lived in South Londonderry where she died, Sept. 23, 1888. She had two sons, Emery Webster and Jonathan Washburn, both of whom, with their families after marriage, resided with her on the old homestead through her life, and so continued until the death of the younger, June 12, 1915, and the older son and her two grandsons still occupy the place.

*Gilman G.* married Elizabeth Woodworth and had one daughter, Isabella P., who married Frank Clapp. He removed to Melbourne, Australia, where he died and where his daughter still resides.

*William* was twice married; first to Malinda Abbott, who bore him two daughters; Sarah Malinda, who married William P. Dodge and lived in Chester, Vt., and Rebecca Ellen, who married Paul H. Pitkin. William's second wife was Mary V. Heselton by whom he had a son, Gilbert L., who died unmarried, and a daughter, Alice E. He died Sept. 27, 1905.

*Amarilla R.* married George M. Pratt and had two sons, George A. and Frank P.

*Ezra* married Ellen Abbott, but had no child. He lived for many years in this town, then moved to Chester, Vt. and there had his home until he died. In his later years he became insane and suffered that affliction until his death.

NEHEMIAH, a younger son of Benjamin, was born Dec. 2, 1759, and married Phebe Lawrence, a sister of Rebecca who married his brother Ezra. He served as a soldier in the Revolution and moved from Westmoreland to Windham, Vt. about 1813. He died Aug. 22, 1818.

His children were: Roland, July 8, 1782, died August 4, 1783; Nathan, Feb. 8, 1784, died Sept. 22, 1798; Lucy, Nov. 17, 1785; Ezra, Dec. 6, 1788; Phebe, Feb. 10, 1792, died May 27, 1815; Sem, July 8, 1794; Nehemiah, Dec. 2, 1797, died Sept. 30, 1798.

*Lucy* married Joseph Covey, had ten children, and died Dec. 26, 1882.

*Ezra* married Polly Farr, and for second wife had a widow Hastings. He lived in Windham until his death, June 23, 1869.

*Sem* was married three times and had children by the first and second wives. His first wife was Lydia Moses, by whom he had nine children: Nehemiah, May 3, 1816; Josiah, Feb. 6, 1818; Phyletta, Feb. 16, 1820; Lydia, Mar. 20, 1824; Sem, Jr., Dec. 21, 1825; a son, Apr. 23, 1828, who died the same day; Aurilla, Oct. 10, 1829; Leland H., Nov. 28, 1831, and William Ward, Mar. 14, 1836. His second wife was Joanna Brown, who bore Nehemiah, Nov. 5, 1837; Marion Ida, July 9, 1840; Edward W., Feb. 25, 1844; Edward Orion, Aug. 15, 1846, and Lydia Maria, Oct. 27, 1849.

His third wife was Myra E. French, by whom he had no child.

He remained with his father on the farm in Windham until after he attained his majority, but later became a Baptist clergyman and was called to the pastorate of the Baptist Church at South Londonderry, which relation continued for more than twenty years. He was then called to the church at Plymouth, Vt., later to Cavendish and some other charges, in this state and in New Hampshire. His education was that of the common schools and he studied theology with Reverend A. Graves, of West Townshend, Vt. He was ordained, at South Londonderry, in 1828.

About the time he first came to Londonderry he occupied the Joseph Stowell farm, so-called, "under-the-mountain," and later owned the farm about a mile above the South village, long the home of his son Josiah.

The old house stood on the northerly side of the old road which led from the Middle-of-the-town down to the river road at the Aldrich place. Subsequently the "Elder" built a house on the river road, which was destroyed by fire and replaced by the present buildings erected on the same site. He was active in secular as well as religious affairs throughout his mature life and of influence in every community of which he was a part. He died Oct. 15, 1865.

*Nehemiah* died, July 8, 1834, unmarried.

*Josiah* married Adeline Whitman and had five daughters and one son; only one of whom survived early childhood. Hattie A., May 2, 1857, married Albert P. Cutting and resided on the old homestead, which had been her father's and her grandfather's, for several years following her father's death, Sept. 5, 1897, moving thence to the South village. She has no child.

*Phyletta* married Merrick Woods and died Nov. 6, 1852.

*Lydia* married Oscar Bennett and died Oct. 20, 1844.

*Sem, Jr.*, married Eliza Howard, of Londonderry, and had three sons and two daughters: Frank O., Feb. 24, 1854; Willie ———, died in childhood; Mary A., May 27, 1858; William Harry, Mar. 16, 1871, and Addie Geneive.

He served in Co. D, 16th Vt. Vols. and was at the Battle of Gettysburg.



After his discharge he returned to his home in this town and engaged in business, for a time being senior partner in the firm making carriages and sleighs at the lower part of the South village, later was a farmer and a Station Agent at the "Winhall Station," about three miles below that village. He moved back to the village and there spent the last years of his life, dying July 25, 1916.

*Aurilla* married John C. Cutter and resided in Winchendon, Mass.

*Leland H.* died Mar. 31, 1853, unmarried.

*William Ward* was an infant when his mother died and was taken into the family of his aunt, Phyletta who married Merrick Woods. He married Lizzie Stone and had three children: Phyletta —, Nov. —, 1868; Josiah Q., Mar. 24, 1870, and Bertha A., Oct. 3, 1883.

He enlisted in Co. I, 4th Vt. Vols. in the Civil War, was promoted to the office of 1st Lieut. Co. B, of the same regiment, and was later commissioned as Captain, but was not mustered as Captain owing to the then early close of the war. He was wounded in the service and was a prisoner in the hands of the enemy from June 23, 1864 to the 17th of December following, when he was exchanged. He died at So. Londonderry, Dec. 23, 1890.

*Nehemiah*, second son of that name, married Jane Shumway and, after her decease, Marcia A. Eddy. He had issue by each wife, and died at Springfield, Ill., Mar. 25, 1873. He was a Baptist clergyman of high standing and at the time of his death was pastor of a Baptist Church in the city where he died.

*Marion Ida* was twice married; first to Charles H. Miller and later to Thomas K. Hamilton.

*Edward W.* died Aug. 5, 1845; Edward Orion died Oct. 3, 1847, and Lydia Maria died Oct. 23, 1861.

*Frank O.*, son of Sem, Jr. and Eliza (Howard), married Ruth Cone and they have two sons: Lyle O., Apr. 23, 1877, and Loren R., Dec. 26, 1878.

*Mary A.* resides in town and is unmarried.

*William Harry* married Mabel Cudworth, of Winchendon, Mass., and has made his home in that town. They have no child.

*Adda Genevieve* died Sept. 30, 1869.

*Lyle O.* married Orrie Davis, of Londonderry, who died childless, at South Londonderry, —, and he married Mrs. Ethel (Lippincott) Patterson. Some years prior to his first marriage he went to Florida, and is still in business at Tampa in that state.

He has no issue, but adopted Lois, daughter of his second wife by her former marriage.

*Loren R.* married Louetta Burgess, of Nashua, N. H. and has one child, Harold L. He studied law at South Londonderry with Addison E. Cudworth, with whom he there practiced, as partner, for several years and

then removed to Woodstock, Vt. where he is in practice of his profession. Upon the entry of the United States into war with Germany, in the "World War," he enlisted, and served over-seas as Lieutenant in a regiment of Pioneers until the close of that war.

*Phyletta*, daughter of William Ward and Lizzie (Stone), married Oscar A. Pease, of Weston, Vt., and had three sons, and a daughter who did not survive the day of her birth. She died Sept. 30, 1919.

*Josiah Q.* married Nettie Pease, of Weston, Vt., and died without issue. *Bertha A.* died Dec. 23, 1892.

SHERMAN PIERCE was a long time resident of this town, and here he died, Apr. 18, 1855.

It is impossible to connect him with either Sergeant Thomas or Captain Michael, and equally impossible to fix the date of his coming. His name first appears in our town records as the grantee in a deed of a small tract, dated Jan. 24, 1806, wherein he is described as "of Londonderry," but the date does not aid in determining when he became resident, for the deed begins the boundary of the tract conveyed at a tree "about eighteen rods east of said Pierce's saw-mill," showing that he was already established here. While the location of the mill mentioned cannot be positively stated, it was, most probably, at the old stone foundations remaining at Thomsonburg on the southerly side of the brook just below the "Captain James place." His name next appears in these Land Records as grantee, in 1813, of fifty acres in a different part of the town and no record discloses how or when he acquired title to the premises purported to be conveyed. The best attainable information, secured from a grand-daughter, is that he came from England when about twelve years of age, unaccompanied by parents, and lived for some years after his first marriage at Cherry Valley, N. Y., from which place he came to Londonderry. He was a soldier in the War of 1812.

His first wife was ——— Tinkham, and it is understood that she bore him several children, only one of whom, his son Sheldon, is said to have come here with his father. His second wife was Polly Thompson (See *Thompson Family Sketch*), by whom he had a large family. Of these were; Joel T., Clarissa, Calvin, Asenath, Samuel, Mary Ann, Truman, Judson, Jackson, Dianna, Jane, but the order of their births is uncertain and the list may have included still others, as it is said the fruit of his two marriages was twenty-one children, and no public or family record or even family tradition, can be found to determine the number borne to him by either wife.

*Sheldon* married Joanna Herrick and remained a resident of town until his death, ———. His children were: Sherman and George (twins) who died in early infancy; Achsa L. who died young, and Rebecca J. who married Thomas E. Hill.



*Joel T.* was twice married. His first wife, Amanda Sweet, had a son, Horatio S., and a daughter, Lorana. His second wife was Polly Reed and they had four children; Laurin, John, Mary Jane and Allie. Horatio S. married Caroline Farnum and they had a son, Alva T., who married Hattie Thompson; and a daughter, Etta L., who married William Grover. Lorna married ——— Tift. Laurin married, first, ——— Pettengill and, second, Mrs. ——— (——) Walker. He lived, and died, in Ludlow, Vt.

*Clarissa* married Mansfield Amsden and lived in Chester.

*Calvin* married Amy ——— and they had a daughter, Sarepta.

*Asenath* married Ichabod Chase and had a large family.

*Samuel* married Mary Amsden. He died in ———, leaving three young children who were separated and found homes where they were brought up, somewhat widely apart. They were; Clarissa, who later was known as Clara, married ——— Densmore, and still lives in Brattleboro; Phyletta, who married Alvaro D. Peck, of Weston, and, surviving him, resides on the old homestead in that town; and Harvey W. who still resides in town where he has spent his whole life. He has been twice married but has no child. His first wife was Celestia Thompson (See *Thompson Family Sketch*); and his second was Mrs. ——— (Hart) Thompson, widow of a brother of his first wife.

*Mary Ann* was three times married; to Mark K. Staples, 2nd, to Dea. Hiram Davis, and, rather late in life, to Elisha White. She had but one child, fruit of her first marriage, Edna A., who married James E. White, whose father was Mary Ann's third husband.

*Truman* died young.

*Judson* never married.

*Jackson* married Abigail Towns and had a son, Charles, and perhaps others.

*Dianna* married Jeremiah Clark, a "seafaring man," of New Bedford, Mass., who moved to Andover, Vt. and became a farmer. They had three sons and two daughters.

*Jane* married Harvey Upham.

Others bearing the name of Pierce are mentioned in our Land Records and marriage records, none of whom can be definitely traced to any of the family stocks already mentioned. Among these of the earlier period are Augustus, Comfort, Jeremiah, Philemon, Abel.

Some of these are believed to be children of Sherman, but the belief really lacks material evidence for its support.

## Rogers

COLONEL JAMES ROGERS, one of the grantees named in the original charter of KENT, and later sole proprietor of the township, was the son of James and Mary (McPhartridge) Rogers.

He came from Londonderry, N. H. to make his home in Kent, but it is not certain that his parents ever had their home in that town.

His father, in 1738, purchased land in the territory later called Starkstown, N. H., being described in the deed as "of Methuen, Mass.;" and in the next year moved to this lot. Some years later he was driven away by the Indians and his improvements destroyed. Still later he returned and resided there until his death, by accidental shooting.

His mother remained in Starkstown, (now Dunbarton) for a time after his father's death but it is doubtful if that was at any time his home after he left the paternal roof. In 1761 the proprietors of Starkstown endeavored to induce him to settle in their town and formally voted that, "in case Capt. James Rogers make present settlement on James Evans' right in Starkstown he shall receive thirty-five pounds, old tenor, out of the treasury for Starkstown, or the same sum that the said Evans paid for his not settling." It is not probable, however, that he accepted this proposition for, about this time, he married Margaret McGregor, of Londonderry, N. H., and in 1762 had a son, David, who died four years later, and his son James, also was born in that town. His wife was the daughter of Rev. David McGregor and grand-daughter of Rev. James McGregor the first pastor in Londonderry, N. H., who came over from Ireland with his flock to whom he bore the same relation prior to their emigration.

This second James, or Colonel James, was, first of all, a military man, active and adventurous. This, indeed, seems to have been a family trait for his brothers, Robert and Richard, were both members of the celebrated body of troops known in history as Rogers' Rangers. Of this organization his brother Robert was commander, while he and his brother Richard both served as Captains therein. Richard died in service at Fort William Henry (N. Y.) in the spring of 1757.

Robert served with distinction in various military organizations under the English flag and was, for a time, a resident of London, England, where he became a favorite at Court and enjoyed the special favor of his King. He died in 1784.

In the career of Colonel James we have a greater interest. From a pamphlet published by one of his descendants we learn that "as Captain in command of a detachment of his more famous brother, Robert Rogers' regiment, serving, however, independently of the main body, he took part in the campaigns in Cape Breton and Canada, under Wolfe and Amherst. He was present at the successive captures of Louisbourg, Quebec and Montreal, the steps by which Canada passed from French to English rule."

He saw service in the "Seven Years War," as waged in America from the beginning to the end; after which he returned to his New Hampshire home.

In 1765, being then a resident of Londonderry, N. H., he made petition in behalf of himself and others for the grant of Kent.



Some doubt has been cast upon the truth of the statement in this petition (see appendix) relative to former grants which they had lost, or were likely to lose, by reason of action of New York authority.

This has arisen, in great part at least, from the fact that there is found no grant to Rogers and his associates of land in the locality mentioned among the records of the "New Hampshire Grants," as the same have been published by authority of the State of New Hampshire.

While no such grant appears to have been made to them collectively, their claim may still have been true and the total extent of territory mentioned in the petition have been made up in individual grants.

It is certain that such grant was made to Colonel Rogers, covering three thousand acres "between South Bay and Ticonderoga," under date May 30, 1765, the original parchment being still in existence and in the keeping of his descendants.

However the facts may have been, the petition bore fruit and the grant of Kent was duly issued; not until after the preliminary draft of the charter, or grant, made "29th July 1766," had been corrected or modified upon a supplementary petition filed by Rogers, evidently after an inspection of this first draft.

Just at what time he came here to make settlement cannot be asserted, but it is at least probable that something was done in that work the same year (1770) the formal or corrected grant was issued.

Much needed to be done before the families could be brought hither and, without doubt, the summers of 1770 and 1771 saw some of these preparations made. In the spring or summer of 1772 Colonel Rogers brought his family to the farm pitched by him for his homestead. At this time he had one son surviving, but as to there then being other children in the family is not to be stated from data at hand.

He settled upon the farm later known as the Larkin place, near the northern border of the town, his homestead farm lying on both sides of West River, though the greater part was on the easterly side, and extended from about the northerly boundary of the farm of John E. Carleton, above the North Village, and the "Bliss Smith place," so-called, to Weston (then Andover) south line. Here he erected his house on the higher land east of the river and that was his residence until he fled from Kent in 1777, leaving his family on the farm. At that time he had a good sized frame house which had taken the place of the original log building which formed the first home and wherein his son, David McGregor Rogers, was born in 1772, the first born of the children of Kent.

Colonel Rogers early took the prominent position in public affairs that his ability and experience warranted.

In October, 1765, he had joined with eleven others in a petition to New York authorities for the establishment of a County on Connecticut River,

the date of this petition being three days later than that of his petition for the grant of Kent; and on the 22nd of the same month six of these twelve, Rogers among the number, made further petition to the same source on the same subject.

In the nomination of Civil Authority for the County of Cumberland, June 11, 1766, he was named for "Asst. Justice in the Commission of the Pleas and Justice of ye Quorum," but it is improbable that he was so commissioned at that time, when he was, without doubt, residing outside Cumberland County. In the list of Judges and other Judicial Officers for the County appointed by commission in April, 1768, his name does not appear, but in the list of Civil Officers for that County in 1772 he is named as "Asst. Justice." In February, 1774, he was made a member of "a standing Committee of Correspondence to correspond with the Committee of Correspondence for the City of New York and other Committees of Correspondence elsewhere." Later he was nominated "to be Brigadier for Cumberland, Gloucester and Charlotte Brigade," which office he declined "for political reasons." This nomination, and others made at the same time by the same body, the Cumberland County Committee of Safety, gave rise to remonstrances against their confirmation by the Provincial Congress and to a request that "the sense of people of the County be taken." He participated in one Convention of Representatives from the New Hampshire Grants but, so far as can be ascertained, only on that one occasion.

At times he seems to have been, in a measure, in the confidence of some of the party opposed to the New York pretensions, but the whole weight of evidence would seem to forbid the belief that he, at any time or to any extent, was in sympathy with them in this matter.

Very soon, if not immediately, after his leaving his home here he entered the active service of his King.

In 1779, his brother Robert raised a regiment of two battalions, known as the "King's Rangers," under authority of Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's forces, and in this regiment he (James) was gazetted Major, June 2, 1779. In September following he and some other officers of these troops arrived by ship at Quebec, whither recruits to the Rangers were sent by the overland route.

Through some mismanagement at headquarters no proper arrangements had been made for support of these recruits and Major Rogers for a time was compelled to furnish their subsistence from his own means.

Finally they were regularly placed upon the military establishment, duly uniformed and sent to garrison the post at St. Johns, guarding the route from Lake Champlain to Montreal. Here he remained until the close of the Revolution, rendering excellent service and gaining some additional distinction through his correspondence with the Commander-in Chief in the Province and his suggestions and recommendations relative to military



plans. This correspondence is still preserved in the British Museum and War Office Archives in London, England.

In November, 1783, came the King's order for disbanding the Loyalist Troops, and Colonel Rogers prepared to again return to peaceful pursuits and the work of establishing a new home; Vermont having seized upon what had been his estate in Kent. In the spring of 1784, it is said, he came back to this town, which had become Londonderry, to make arrangements for the removal of his family to Canada, and that the family returned with him to St. Johns. That he did make a visit, about that time, to his former home and that he was coldly received by the townspeople is undoubtedly true, but it is doubtful if the family removed in 1784 for his son, James, in his petition to the Vermont Legislature in 1795 alleges that he and the other heirs of Colonel James resided here until 1785.

No later visit of Colonel Rogers was made to this town and he then, with some two hundred of his troops, settled in a tract of land granted to them and known as Fredericksburg, Upper Canada. Here he lived until his decease, September 23, 1790, and was the founder of one of the prominent families of that Province, which has maintained its prominence through succeeding generations.

He was succeeded in his position in the settlement by his son, David McGregor Rogers (the first born son of Kent), who for twenty-four years represented his District in the early Houses of Assembly of Upper Canada. One of his descendants, author of the pamphlet before quoted, says of him: "David McGregor Rogers seems to have been a man of considerable force of character, uniting as he did the blood of his soldier father with that of the Highland out-laws, which he owed to his mother whose name he bore as part of his own." He died in 1824 at his Canadian home.

James, another and the older son of Colonel Rogers, who petitioned for and secured the return of the unsold portion of his father's Vermont property, married Mary Allen and had a family of children, some of whom were born in this town. After securing the remnant of his father's estate through Act of the State Legislature, he established his home in Londonderry and was for some years its town clerk. While he held that office he entered on the records the names of his children, with dates of their birth. The record is as follows:

*Birth of children of James & Mary Rogers*

Mary, born at Londonderry 11th June, 1798;

Timothy, born Chester 22nd December, 1799;

Eliza, born Chester 5th February, 1801;

Nancy, born Londonderry, 20th May, 1802;

James, born Londonderry, 28th February, 1804;

David, born Londonderry, 16th June, 1805.



These entries were made on records under date January 8, 1806 and at a later date there was added, in the same handwriting, a record of the birth of two other children, both of whom died soon after birth, one in September, 1806, and the other in August, 1807.

The date of his coming from Canada to take possession of property here was in 1797, between April and October, when he lived in Windham; the next year he was in Londonderry and then followed a short residence in Chester when he again came to Londonderry. He was chosen town clerk of this town in 1805 and held the office by successive re-elections until 1809, when he declined to serve longer. He removed from town in the winter of 1817-18, and in 1820 we know he was a resident of Upper Canada, where he died in 1841.

Locally, Colonel Rogers has never received due appreciation or been accorded the position or credit to which his talents and his worth entitled him. This, doubtless, has arisen from the fact of his having been a loyalist or, as more commonly expressed, a tory, in the days of the Colonies' struggle for independence. To now grant to his memory its just deserts were merest justice, and no lack of patriotism.

Much as we may regret that he did not give his adherence and his aid to the Colonists' cause, we should grant him, as we would claim for ourselves, the right to the exercise of individual judgment and to opinions honestly held. He seems to have been a sincere as well as ardent supporter of his King, and his course was that of an upright and conscientious man holding such views. He was no loitering, sneaking spy who remained among his former neighbors, stealthily aiding their enemies and harassing them as opportunity could be found, but, as a manly and open foe, like the veteran that he was, went openly into the ranks and gave a soldier's service to the cause he espoused. With the removal of this younger James from town, more than a century ago, the family's connection with local affairs and local history came to an end.

## Stowell

A GENEALOGY of this family has recently (1922), been published by Hon. William H. H. Stowell, being a bulky volume of 980 pages, and the same is the basis and authority for the greater part of this present sketch. While some of those herein mentioned never had personal connection with the life of Londonderry, it has seemed desirable that they be included, so far as has been done, as of interest, and possible value, in tracing the relationship of those who have been residents of the town.

All the members of this family who have resided in Londonderry, and they have been many, trace descent from Samuel Stowell, who was born in England, died in Hingham, Mass., Nov. 9, 1683, and is supposed to have



come to this country in his boyhood with the colony which settled in Hingham in 1635. They all have a common ancestor in Israel, great grandson of Samuel and his wife, Mary (Farrow), whose father and grandfather each bore the same name as his own.

This third, latest born, Israel was three times married and all the Londonderry Stowells are included in the descendants of two of his sons, brothers of the half-blood, Luther, the fifth son by first wife, Mary (Butler), and Reuben, the second of three sons by the second wife, Sarah (Carpenter).

*Luther Stowell*, long known as "Deacon Luther," was born in Winchester, N. H., Oct. 18, 1772, and died in Londonderry, Vt., Nov. 9, 1857.

He married Lydia Clark, of Petersham, Mass., Dec. 25, 1796, and resided in that town for a time, his oldest child being born there, Apr. 30, 1798.

He then moved to Windham, Vt., and thence to Londonderry, in 1818, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a man of prominence in the town, was postmaster three years, represented the town in the State Legislature three sessions, was twice member of the Constitutional Convention (1814 and 1828), and held the office of Justice of the Peace for thirty-four years. As such magistrate he solemnized the marriage of each of his children who lived to maturity, save only Harden who never married. His oldest child was born in Petersham, the two youngest in Londonderry, and all the others in Windham, Vt. They were: Josiah, Apr. 30, 1798; Florinda, Nov. 27, 1799; David Clark, Mar. 15, 1801; Horace, Jan. 10, 1803; Harden C., Apr. 27, 1805; Elizabeth E., Feb. 28, 1807; Luther, Apr. 6, 1809; Avery Bacon, Apr. 12, 1811; Mary B. Nov. 25, 1813; Lydia, Aug. 24, 1818, and Henry C., Apr. 17, 1821.

*Josiah*, in his early childhood, came to Windham with his father and mother and lived there until twenty years of age, about the date of his first marriage and the time his father's family came to Londonderry. Not long thereafter he had his home in Derry, N. H. and later moved to Manchester, N. H. He was there interested and influential in public and political affairs and is said to have held every office or rank in the N. H. Militia from Ensign to Brigadier General; though the military title borne by him while residing in this town was Colonel. He came here in 1842 and built a large hotel, or a building which he designed for that use but which was converted into a store building, though with small change in its interior, and for many years known throughout the country-side as "Arnold's Store." This venture of his proving a failure financially and leaving him somewhat involved, as it is said, he closed out his interests and moved to Hudson, Mich., where he died, Dec. 11, 1873, having been blind for several years.

He was three times married and had issue by each of his wives.

His first wife was Laura Chapin, who bore him two daughters, Laura Chapin, who married Cyrus Chase and had one son, George Harlan; and



Emeline F., who lived but a few days. His first wife having died in 1825, he married her sister, Henrietta F. Chapin, who died at Manchester, N. H., in May, 1840, having borne one son, James Henry, Aug. 16, 1832. By his third wife, Charlotte Barr, he had two children; Charles Barr, who married in Michigan and there died childless, and a daughter, Mary S.

*Florinda* married Ira Farr about a year after her parents moved to Londonderry and spent the rest of her life in Windham, dying June 9, 1879, having had three sons and four daughters.

*David Clark* married Rachel Farr, sister of Ira, Florinda's husband, and had two children: Mary Adaline, who married Orin Curtis and died, childless, at Charlestown, Mass., in 1850; and David who spent all his life in Londonderry. He died in this town, Oct. 7, 1863.

*Horace* spent his life, after his father's moving here, in Londonderry and was a cabinet maker by trade, having his shop near his house at the westerly end of the village next the bridge across Utley Branch. He married Rebecca Reed, by whom he had three children; Alonzo H.; Henrietta, who married Charles L. Whitman and died, childless, in 1882, and Henry, born in 1832, who survived but a few days. Horace died Nov. 23, 1878.

*Harden* was never married. He died, in this town, Oct. 24, 1881.

*Elizabeth E.* married Dr. Jeremiah Arnold of this town and had a family of seven children. She died here on Christmas day, 1871. (See *Arnold Family Sketch*.)

*Luther* married Elzina Davis, of Londonderry, and all their children were born in this town. Later he moved from town, but the date of his so doing is not known. It must have been later than 1850, for in that year he is said to have been Postmaster here. He lived in several different towns after this removal and was a resident of Framingham, Mass. at the time of his death, though he died in Londonderry, Nov. 7, 1894. His children were: Addinette Elzina, who married Orin Curtis, surviving husband of her deceased cousin, Mary Adaline, and had two sons and a daughter; Luther H. who served three years in the Civil War, Co. H, 2nd Mass. Vols. and later married Abigail F. Kendall, at Framingham, Mass. where he resided until his death in June, 1913, without having any children; and Marian S. who married Harlan H. Whitney and died childless, Aug. 2, 1917, at Framingham.

*Avery B.* lived in Londonderry from his early boyhood until his death, Nov. 17, 1896. In 1833 he married Sally Davis, whom he survived twenty years, residing on the old homestead on what is termed "Stowell Hill." Their children were: Webber, May 21, 1844, who died on day of his birth; Saville, June 13, 1845, married William L. Gibson and bore two sons and two daughters (see *Gibson Family Sketch*); Mary Elma, June 27, 1847, died, unmarried, June 29, 1876; Willard B., Apr. 18, 1849,



died Feb. 6, 1870, unmarried; Warren C., June 15, 1851, died Jan. 20, 1852; and Walter D., Oct. 6, 1855.

*Mary B.* married three times. Her first husband was Henry Chapin; her second, Lory Bacon, and her third was Joseph Perham. By her first marriage she had one daughter, and by her second two sons and two daughters. There was no issue of her third marriage. She died at Lyndeboro, N. H., Jan. 28, 1879.

*Lydia* married Samuel Whitney, had four sons, lived in Nashua, N. H. and in Waltham, Mass. where she died, May 11, 1896.

*Henry Chapin*, Deacon Luther's youngest child, died at Waltham, Mass., Oct. 2, 1887. He was married four times. His first wife, Elizabeth M. Whitney, had a son, George H., born in Londonderry, July 25, 1845.

By his second wife, Irene K. Bates, he had daughter, Elizabeth Irene, who married James H. Tattersall, by whom she had daughter, Mildred W. who married Edward H. Swift, of Manchester, Vt.; and afterward married Charles F. Bacon, bore him a son, Winthrop E., and died Apr. 26, 1914, at Londonderry.

His third wife was Eliza R. Jones, who died childless; and by the fourth marriage, to Martha Ann Bond, he had a daughter, Clara Bond.

*James Henry*, son of Col. Josiah and Henrietta F. (Chapin), was about ten years old when his father moved here from New Hampshire and, probably, lived here until the family moved to Michigan. He never resided here thereafter; nor did either of the other children of the Colonel ever live here. James Henry died, June 12, 1895, at N. Y. City.

*David*, son of David Clark and Rachel (Farr), married Maryette Hayward, of Londonderry, Oct. 22, 1850, lived for many years on "Stowell Hill," his farm adjoining the old homestead of his grandfather, Deacon Luther, and died Feb. 11, 1910. His children, all born in Londonderry, were: Mary Adaline, May 2, 1852; Emma Elizabeth, Mar. 16, 1854; Henry Clark, Dec. 12, 1856; Clara Ellen, Nov. 11, 1864, and Orin David, Nov. 22, 1869.

*Alonzo H.*, son of Horace and Rebecca (Reed), was born in Londonderry, June 7, 1828, and died in Manchester, N. H., June 4, 1898. His wife was Elizabeth Murch and the fruit of their union was a son and daughter born in Londonderry and a second son, born in Charlestown, Mass. These were: Frank, Feb. 12, 1851; Mary Alice, July 3, 1856, and Charles Winthrop, June 4, 1870.

*Walter D.*, youngest child of Avery B. and Sally (Davis), married Jennie Larrabee and lived for several years upon a farm on "Stowell Hill," from which he moved to Framingham, Mass. where he died. His first-born, a daughter, did not survive the day of her birth, and his other child, Lillian May, May 15, 1894, married, at Framingham, Clarence P. Baxter.



*George Henry*, son of Henry Chapin and Elizabeth M. (Whitney), died at at his home in Waltham, Mass., Dec. 31, 1894.

His wife was Abbie Arvilla Daggett, who survived him. Only two of their five children survived the day of their respective births.

These were Bertha Mae, who married Carl A. Mears and had two children, a daughter and a son; and Henry Whitney, May 30, 1877, who married Anita Evans Tebbetts. He was a lawyer in N. Y. City, a graduate of Harvard College, and has one son, Henry Evans, Feb. 26, 1910.

*Mary Adaline*, daughter of David and Maryette (Hayward), married Frank H. Marden, of Londonderry, whom she survived, having a son, Clarence S., who married Ella V. Childs and has one son and three daughters. Later she married Serrel Allen, of this town, and resides on the old Allen homestead with her son, her husband having deceased.

*Emma E.* married John E. Carleton, of Londonderry, but had no child.

*Henry Clark*, named for his paternal grandfather, married Lilla Lizzie Coleman and lives in Brattleboro, Vt. They have no children.

*Clara Ellen* married Charles B. Carleton and resided in Manchester, Vt. until her death. She had no children.

*Orin David*, younger son of David and Maryette, married Nettie S. Clough, of Londonderry, and removed to Brattleboro where he was long connected with Dunham Bros. Co., wholesale and retail shoe dealers. He has three children: Inez May, born in Londonderry, Sept. 19, 1894, Ruth Eleanor, Aug. 13, 1897, and Hugh Orin, the last two born in Brattleboro.

*Frank*, son of Alonzo H. and Elizabeth (Murch), married Catherine Sleeper at Boston, Mass. in 1874, and they, some years later, came to Londonderry and lived for a time in the "North village." No children.

*Mary Alice* married, at Boston, Mass., Nathaniel H. Walker, but has no child.

*Charles Winthrop* has been twice married but has no issue. His first wife was Helen T. Western, and after her death he married Cecelia A. Wardwell.

*Reuben Stowell* was seven years younger than his half-brother, Deacon Luther, having been born, in Winchester, N. H., Nov. 4, 1779.

He became a resident of Windham, Vt. only a few years after that town was established, on the division of the original township of Londonderry, and there all his children were born. He never lived in Londonderry, as the town is now known, but spent his life in Windham, where he died Sept. 24, 1861. He married Mary Bennett and they had a family of five sons and five daughters. These were: Melinda, Nov. 6, 1800; Mary, Nov. 12, 1802; Israel, May 8, 1805; Joseph, Feb. 24, 1807; Almira, June 15, 1809; Calvin, Sept. 6, 1812; Aaron B., Sept. 19, 1814; Sarah Miranda, May 17, 1818; Hollis G., Mar. 17, 1821, and Ordella A., Nov. 2, 1824.



Several of these children are found to have been, in later life, connected with this town, to some extent.

*Melinda* married Jude Farr and lived in Windham. Her oldest child, Laura Ann, born in Windham, May 14, 1822, married Winslow Babbitt and had five children. (See *BABBITT FAMILY SKETCH*.)

*Mary*, better known in her later years as "Aunt Polly," married Hubbard Barrett and lived for many years on the farm about a mile below South Londonderry, on West River, still termed "The Barrett Farm," until after her husband's death and died in Wardsboro, Vt., at the home of a daughter.

*Israel* married Achsah Goddard, daughter of Samuel and Anna, and had a family of seven children. (See *Goddard Family Sketch*.)

*Joseph* married Hesebeth Hastings, at Windham, and lived for several years in Albany and Troy, N. Y., coming to Londonderry in 1857. He owned and managed a farm on the "under mountain road" until his death, Dec. 11, 1871.

His only child, Maria Hastings, married John Cheney, of Londonderry, and had one daughter, Ella J., who was brought up by her grandparents, her mother having died when she was a mere infant. This granddaughter married John C. Robinson, of Jamaica, and has three sons and a daughter.

*Almira* married Jacob B. Rugg and had a family of three sons and six daughters. They lived in Londonderry for some years, their fifth child, Nancy M., being born here, Jan. 19, 1834, and the next three in the list were also born here. They moved from Londonderry to Chester, Vt. and in that town Martin L., their youngest child was born, Sept. 5, 1849.

*Calvin* spent all his life in Windham, where he died Sept. 9, 1894. He was three times married and had six children by the first wife, two by the second and none by the third. Only two of these lived to maturity, Ebenezer W. and Fanny Lorinda, children of the first wife.

*Aaron B.* was a Baptist clergyman and never a resident of this town. He died at Herndon, Va., then his home, Mar. 23, 1891.

*Sarah Miranda* married Levi Jones, of Londonderry, and spent the remainder of her life here. She died Sept. 10, 1874, leaving an only child, Georgia Lucy, who married Henry L. Darling and had one son, Frank L.

*Hollis G.* married Lydia A. Farr, daughter of Florinda (Stowell) Farr, and grand-daughter of Deacon Luther Stowell, and had one child, William Hollis. Neither Hollis G. nor William H. lived in Londonderry.

*Ordelia A.*, Reuben's youngest child, married Jonathan Jones, brother of Levi who married her sister Sarah Miranda. For a time she and her husband lived on the old Jones homestead, on the hill just south of the "South village;" Levi, Jonathan and their father (Levi), then owning the

place jointly. Ordella and her husband then moved to South Windham, Vt. and later to a farm just across the line in Townshend, where she died, Dec. 2, 1900, leaving an only son, Charles, who has since deceased.

## Thomson — Thompson

SAMUEL THOMPSON was born May 23, 1751 and came from Dunbarton, N. H. to Londonderry, Vt. where he died Feb. 13, 1838. He is named in several sketches of the early history of this town, heretofore printed, as one of Col. Rogers' original party, the first comers. This is an error for he did not make his home here until several years later, nor did he visit the locality until after the earliest party had erected houses and brought their families.

His wife was Mary Miller, sister of Robert, John and Daniel who came among the earliest settlers and established themselves on the Thompsonburg Meadows, as they are now known.

In 1774, Samuel and his wife came from their home in Dunbarton to visit her brothers and look over the opportunities for securing desirable lands in the vicinity. Their visit or stay was so far prolonged that two children were born to them while here, though they took up no land and established no home. They then returned to Dunbarton where they remained until 1782, when they again came to Londonderry and bought the farms of Robert and John Miller; the house of the latter being built on the pitched lot or farm of Robert. Daniel Miller had taken up no land at that time but had built a log house on the lot pitched by his brother Robert, though, later, he owned the farm which he conveyed to Hugh Montgomery and John Hasey, lying on West River and now a part of George M. Tuttle's homestead, formerly known as the George Hewes place.

Though Robert Miller gave Thomson a warranty deed of the farm in Thompsonburg in 1782 the deeds on record support the assumption that, at that time, he had received no title deed to the same, for the conveyance of these premises to him was made in September, 1784, by "The Committee," or persons appointed by the Legislature in 1780 to dispose of "Tory Rogers' " lands. The same is true as to the farm of John Miller.

Probably these farms were "pitched" by the Millers under some arrangement with Rogers and their rights thereunder recognized by the "Committee." All three of the Millers early left town and moved to Manchester, Vt.

Thomson, from time to time, purchased other adjoining lands and owned a very large tract from which he set out farms for his sons, as they grew up and married and from them the locality took the name Thompsonburg which it has ever since borne.

Samuel Thomson's home was on this old Robert Miller farm until his decease. Up to 1815 both he and his family spelled the family name *Thom-*



son but from that time forward the present form, *Thompson*, seems to have been used.

The children of Samuel and Mary (Miller) Thomson were: John, born Apr. 11, 1773, who evidently died when quite young; David, Jan. 19, 1775; Samuel, Jr., Nov. 27, 1776; John, Aug. 25, 1778; James, Mar. 31, 1781; Rogers, Apr. 26, 1783; Polly, Apr. 21, 1785; Maryann, Nov. 29, 1787; Betsey, Nov. 8, 1791; Hannah, Feb. 10, 1793, died Feb. 17, 1798; Joel, Apr. 10, 1795, died Mar. 4, 1810; and Jennet, Sept. 28, 1798, died Mar. 8, 1799.

*David* married Hannah Boorn and was settled on the hill farm now for many years owned by Georgianna M. Mansfield. His first house was a log structure built by him and his brother Samuel when they were 18 and 16 years of age respectively. Later he built the brick house now standing on the crest of the hill, the brick having been made at the foot of the hill where he established a brick-yard for that purpose, and where were also made the brick for the house east of the "Capt. James place" on the farm once called the Magar place.

His children were: Nathaniel B., Samuel (3d), David, Jr., William Squire, Mercy, Joel, Jared, Polly, Sylvia and Emery; all of whom lived to maturity and married.

*Nathaniel B.* married Philena Buxton. Their children were; Minerva, who married Calvin W. Wheeler and had a family of nine children, of whom eight lived to maturity; Emeline, who married Lyman W. Ellis and had two children; Gilman J. who married Susan A. Temple and who served as a soldier in the Civil War. After living in Winhall for many years they moved to So. Londonderry where both died, leaving one daughter, Hallie A., surviving; Fidelia, married Alfred A. Chase and had one son; and Ellen, who married Thomas J. Jaquith to whom she bore two sons and two daughters. Nathaniel and Philena also had two sons who died in infancy, Alfred and one not named.

*Samuel (3d)* married Orra Burlingame and went to northern New York to live. He had a daughter, who was blind, and a son, George, who married and had four children.

*David, Jr.* married Cynthia Burch. He, also, had a daughter who became blind and died unmarried. He removed to Pennsylvania and died there.

*William Squire* married Lucinda Rockwood. He had three daughters; Lucina, who married John Moore; Mercy, who married a Sheldon; Laura, who married a Shipman, and also a son Loren. Squire, as he was usually called, lived for some years at Thompsonburg, but went to the home of his daughter Lucina and her husband, in Rockingham, Vt. and spent the last of his life.

*Mercy* married Asa Whitman and bore two sons and two daughters. (See *Whitman Family Sketch*.)

*Joel* married Cynthia Whitman and had three daughters; Ella who died in childhood; Helen who married Cyrus A. Greeley, by whom she had a son, Clifford; and a second Ella, who married first Asa Howe, by whom she had a son, Bert, and for second husband married Merritt Cook. Joel lived for many years at Thompsonburg, on the old Rogers Thompson farm, and there died.

*Fared* married Caroline Clark, of Providence, R. I., but had no children. *Polly* married Thomas Faulkner and lived in town many years. She survived her husband and spent her last years in Athol, Mass.

*Sylvia* married John Greeley, but had no children.

*Emery* married Belinda Clark. He was a soldier of the Civil War, and had a son who also enlisted in that war, at the age of 17, and died in service. He also had a daughter, Katie, who married —— Moore and had several children.

SAMUEL, JR., son of Samuel and Mary (Miller), married Abigail Hoskins and had ten children; Jane, Feb. 23, 1798; John, Aug. 25, 1799; Samuel Miller, July 27, 1801; Betsey, Apr. 21, 1803; Solon, Jan. 17, 1805; Mary, Jan. 5, 1807; Solon, Jan. 22, 1809; Maryann, Apr. 20, 1811; William, Dec. 5, 1813; and Rhoda, Jan. 11, 1816.

He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and died, Sept. 22, 1853, on the old homestead, to which he had taken title some years before and on which he had cared for his parents in their last years.

*Jane*, the oldest child of Samuel, Jr., married Robert Wheeler.

*John* died Dec. 25, 1825; and we have no information as to his ever having married.

*Samuel Miller* was killed by the falling of a limb from a tree while at work in the woods in Peru, Vt. It is said that he never was married.

*Betsey* died in infancy.

*Solon*, the first of that name, died at the age of two years.

*Mary* married Ira Whitman, lived for many years on the "Brook Road" in this town, and died childless.

*Solon*, the second son of that name, married Lucy Maria Churchill and they had four sons and five daughters; Mahala, Henry L., Augustus, Semira, Achsah L., Celestia M., Walter, Laroy S. and Marion. He survived the mother of these children many years, and took for his second wife Anna B. (Farnum) Campbell, who survived him.

*Mahla*, his oldest child, married Francis N. Ball and died childless.

*Henry L.* married twice; first ——, and second Cornelia (Burbee) Kingsbury. His children, all by his first marriage, were Delbert, who died unmarried; Gilbert, who married Sylvia F. Wood, and, for his second wife, Blanche Smith but has no child; Eva, who married Henry A. Wood; and Minnie, who married J. E. Wood.

*Augustus* died unmarried.



*Semira* married Willard M. Bemis and bore him three sons.

*Achsah L.* married Edgar S. McAllister, had a son, John C., and a daughter, Ira, who married Leon W. Coleman.

*Celestia M.* married Harvey W. Pierce and died childless.

*Walter* married Emma L. Hart and occupied his father's homestead farm at the time of his death. He left three sons and one daughter; Irvin L., who married Mabel S. Johnson, has one daughter and lives on the old home farm; Earl, who married Bertha Hoyt and has one son; Luther, who married Mercy Bowen, and who was called into military service in the World War but did not go overseas; and Bertha, who became the second wife of Leon W. Coleman.

*Laroy S.* married Julia A. Doe, lived in town some years and then moved into "York State," where he died leaving two sons, Albert and Floyd.

*Marion* married Hervey Bryant and spent practically all her married life away from Londonderry.

*Maryann*, daughter of Samuel, Jr., married Jonathan Sawin.

*William*, youngest son of Samuel, Jr., was twice married; first to Nancy H. Rugg, and for his second wife took Anna B., the widow of his brother Solon. His children were all by his first wife, and were Daniel, Wayland, Newton, Malcolm, and two daughters.

*John*, the second son of Samuel and Mary to bear that name, married Vina Pierce and was settled on the farm next south of his father's homestead, the place known in these later years as the Johnson Brothers' farm. He had one son, Bradley, who became a Baptist clergyman, and seven daughters; Joanna, Hannah, Fanny, Huldah, Eliza, Julia and Lucina. As to the order of their birth we are uncertain, and about these children definite information has not been found available beyond the fact that Hannah married Othenial Packard.

*James* was blind and died Aug. 26, 1826, unmarried.

*Rogers*, youngest of Samuel's sons who survived boyhood, married Olive Herrick and had four children; Riley, Roxana, Lorinda, and Laura, but of none of them has further reliable information been found. His father settled him on the farm across the brook from the old homestead, in the recent past known as the Joel Thompson farm. Rogers sold this farm in ——— and moved from town to ———.

*Polly* married Sherman Pierce and had a large family of children. (See *Pierce Family Sketch*.)

*Maryann* married ——— Sherwin.

## Waite—Wait

Two branches of this family are represented in this town, claiming no kinship with each other but found to be of the same original stock. The name was originally written Wayte and the change to the present form, or forms, seems to be coincident with the coming of the family to New England.

*Richard Wait*, born 1608, was in 1637 a resident of Watertown, Mass., and from him can be traced the descent of both branches of the family in this town.

Richard had three sons; John, Thomas and Joseph.

Joseph, the youngest, was born in Watertown in 1643. Joseph's son, William had a son, Jason, who was living at Grafton, Mass. in 1750.

This Jason had a son, Jason, who served as a soldier from Grafton, Mass. in 1757; later removed to Alstead, N. H. and served in the War of the Revolution in various organizations. He was commissioned, Nov. 7, 1776, as Captain in "Col. Joseph Cilley's Regiment," and also, at one time, was Captain in "Col. John Stark's Regiment." He was a member of the force that marched into Canada in 1776 and surrendered at a fort, or station, called "The Cedars." At this time he held rank as "Capt. of the Third Company in Col. Timothy Bedell's Regiment." In the latter part of the year 1782 he resigned his commission, then being Major in 3rd Regt., and left the army. While he was absent from home on military service his wife died and, later, the family moved to Westmoreland, N. H., where he remarried and remained until his decease. He had a son, Barnet, born in 1768, who married Diadama Warner, daughter of William Warner, who was among the early settlers of Chester, Vt., and had settled on what is now the main street of that village.

This son came to Londonderry, Vt. in 1791 and settled on land adjoining the Colonel Rogers homestead, taking deed of the same, June 26, 1792, from "The Committee" who sold Colonel Rogers' land under authority of the Vermont Legislature, and lived in this town until his death, which occurred in 1838.

His children were Lee, Barnet, Warren, Jason, Polly, Clarissa, Caroline, Maria, William, George, Loren and two others who died young.

Lee married Lydia Stearns, of Hebron, N. Y.; Barnet married Polly Smith, of Andover, Vt.; Warren married Mary Hooker; Jason married Melinda Warner; Polly married Joseph Clark; Clarissa married Sylvester W. Sheldon; Caroline married Gardner Eaton; Maria married Isaac W. Gibson; William "went off to sea," and later settled in Chicago, Ill.; George married Sophia Spaulding, and Loren went "out west," where we can follow him no further.



Barnet, second son of Barnet and Diadama, was born Aug. 20, 1795 and was a resident of this town during his lifetime, 98 years and 17 days. For full two generations the residents of this and adjoining towns knew him well as Squire Wait; in his later years "the old Squire."

From his early manhood until long after he had passed the allotted three score and ten he held, almost continuously, some town office, covering at different times nearly the full list by law chosen at the annual town meetings, and for half a century held the office of Justice of the Peace. He had six children; Mary C., Aug. 3, 1825; Barnet S., May 23, 1827; William H., March 1, 1830; Caroline H., June 3, 1832; Corydon F., Oct. 20, 1834, and Cordelia M., Jan. 8, 1840.

Mary C. married Albert M. Allbe, a lawyer, who resided for some years in this town and at one time conducted a store in the North Village.

Later they removed to Springfield, Vt., where they lived many years before going to Bellows Falls to spend their last days.

They had four children: Alberton A., who died young; Alla N., who married Frederick W. Pierce; Cora A., who married Dr. E. S. Allbee of Bellows Falls; Gertrude A., who married Alvah C. Spencer.

Barnet S. married Mary A. McAllister in 1849 and spent the later years of his life in this town, where he died Feb. 29, 1896.

They had one son, Albert B., Nov. 7, 1853, who married Nina E. Peck and lived many years in Chicago, Ill. and Des Moines, Iowa. On the death of his father he returned to Londonderry and now resides on the old family homestead in the North Village. He has no children.

William H. died at the age of two years.

Caroline H. married James Parker and lived in this town until her death, Dec. 25, 1879, leaving no child.

Corydon F. married Jennie M. Bates, and died June 8, 1897. He had two children: Nellie E., May 29, 1857, who married L. S. Richardson, of Chester, formerly a resident of Londonderry, and Barnet M., Sept. 8, 1865, who married Dora Barber.

The later generations of this branch make use of an additional letter in the family name, writing it Waite.

From John, eldest son of Richard Wait (1608) of Watertown, Mass., descended John Wait who moved from Mason, N. H. to Andover, Vt. about 1795, locating in that portion of the town which later became Weston.

In his family were five sons: John, Amos, Daniel, James and Sumner, and three daughters: Betsey, Sally and Lucinda.

Sumner Wait was born, Jan. 9, 1807, in Weston, Vt. He learned the trade of a blacksmith in the shop of his brother, Daniel, in Chester, Vt. and first opened his own shop at Londonderry, but later moved into several other localities before finally settling down in this town.

He married Polly Dodge, daughter of Daniel Dodge who, with his brother Ezra, moved to Londonderry from Andover, Vt. in 1817 and settled upon a tract of virgin forest land just south of the Weston town line, now known as the Wait, or Highland, farm. This was the home of Sumner Wait and his wife from the fall of 1842, her father and mother living in the family in their old age and until their death.

Sumner Wait died on this farm Aug. 4, 1882. He and his descendants are the only members of this branch of the Wait family who made Londonderry their home.

The children of Sumner and Polly (Dodge) Wait were: Daniel D., Marion and Maryette D.

Daniel D. married Janette T. Chittenden and had one child, Charles S., Feb. 11, 1859, and died, on the farm cleared by his maternal grandfather, June 6, 1916.

Marion married Dr. Luther S. Arnold and resided in town until her decease. They had one son, Elmore Ferdinand, who, like his father and his grandfather, was a physician. (See *Arnold Family Sketch*.)

Maryette D. married David Putnam and had her home in Lyndeboro, N. H. Charles S., son of Daniel D., married Alta M. Wilkins, who bore him two sons, Charles D., April 12, 1890, and Robert L., Dec. 28, 1894. His second wife was Anna (Angolum) Mayer. No child was born of this second marriage, but he formally adopted Marjorie, daughter of his second wife by a former marriage, and gave her the name Wait. He died, June 15, 1922, on the farm where three generations of his ancestors had lived and died.

## • Warner

MANY representatives of this family, or bearers of this name, have been residents of Londonderry but it is not possible to trace them to a common origin, nor to determine anything as to a definite relationship between the different families, though there is a strong presumption that all of them sprung from that William to whom we trace one branch.

In April, 1803, John Warner, Jr., "of Keene, N. H.," took deed from one John Jacobs of 25 acres of land in town adjacent to the "Great Pond," now Lowell Lake; and in the following March conveyed the same to John Warner, "of Keene," setting himself as "of Londonderry," Vt.

A quit-claim deed of the same plot to John Warner, dated Sept. 2, 1815 describes him as "of Londonderry," and he is so designated in his deed of this same land to Daniel Warner under date May 31, 1827.

It is apparently true that John, Jr. was the first of this branch to reside in town and that he came in 1803 or 1804; also, that his father, John (Senior), came between that date and 1815. The business carried on upon the tract described in these deeds was that of cloth-dressing and fulling.



John, the elder, was a "clothier," or cloth-dresser, by occupation and had followed that calling in New Ipswich and in Keene, N. H. before the date his name appears in our records. His first wife was Priscilla Adams, by whom he had two daughters, Molly and Dorcas. Molly married Isaac Esty, Jr., of Keene, and Dorcas died, unmarried, while a member of the family of her half-brother Daniel in Londonderry. His second wife was Sarah Eastman, who bore him nine children: John (undoubtedly the John, Jr. who came to Londonderry), Sarah, Caleb, Jerry, Palmyra, Elvira, Marianna, Daniel and Harriet. All these sons followed the same occupation as their father.

The father was a soldier of the Revolution, enlisting, in 1777, as a private in Capt. Josiah Brown's Co. of Colonel Enoch Hale's Regt.

His ancestry, traced by one of a later generation in the family, runs back through Caleb, and Elizabeth (Brown); Daniel, and Dorcas (Adams); Daniel, and Sarah (Dane); Daniel, and Elizabeth (Denne) to William Warner, born in England, who came to Ipswich, Mass. in 1637 bringing with him his sons John and Daniel, his daughter Abigail, whose husband had preceded them to America, and his sister Sarah.

Of John, Jr. we have no information further than already stated, except the date of his birth, Aug. 22, 1779 at New Ipswich.

His brother Jerry was born Sept. 25, 1786 and married Phebe, daughter of Nehemiah and Sarah (Glenne) How, Dec. 24, 1807. They lived in this town until after the birth of their first child, Sarah Eastman, July 16, 1808, and later that same year moved to Cornish, N. H. From that time until 1867 they lived in various places, in N. H. and in N. Y., and then went to Nunda, Ill. and spent the remainder of their lives at that place, having had two sons and two daughters born to them after leaving Londonderry. He died Jan. 16, 1873.

Daniel, youngest son of John (Senior) and Sarah (Eastman), was born in Keene, N. H., Mar. 18, 1797 and died at Weston, Vt., Sept. 1, 1867. He married Huldah How, sister of his brother Jerry's wife, at Londonderry, and operated his "clothier and fulling mill" at the "Great Pond" (Lowell Lake), for some years, moving to Weston in 1835 and there carrying on a like business until his removal to Pennsylvania in 1848. He later returned to Weston and passed his last days there.

His children were all daughters and all were born in Londonderry. They were: Eliza Harriet, married Charles Gardner and died, childless, in Boston, Aug. 13, 1852; Martha Elvira, married Abel Rideout, of Weston, and died there Feb. 13, 1884, without issue; Sallie Maria, married Fernando Farrar, had five children and died in Erie, Pa., Mar. 18, 1859; Mary Ann, married Oramel Cheney and died, Apr. 19, 1861, in Dedham, Mass. leaving two daughters, Addie and Effie; Adaline Frances married Philetus Strong, had seven children, and died in Waterford, Pa., Apr. 19, 1907.

One Jonathan Warner resided for a time in Londonderry, where he married Abigail, oldest daughter of Nehemiah and Sarah (Glenne) How, about 1797 as family tradition states, though the records (as in very many other cases) disclose nothing as to the marriage.

He was living in town in February, 1808 but how long he had been here is not known. No evidence of any relationship between him and Jerry and Daniel before mentioned can be found, other than that arising from the fact that their respective wives were sisters; nor can we connect Jonathan with any of the other Warners who have resided in town.

The wife of Barnet Wait (father of the "Old Squire," Barnet), was a Warner (see *Wait Family Sketch*), but her relationship to any of the others of that family name who have resided in Londonderry cannot be traced.

At a comparatively recent date Carmillus T. Warner was a resident physician in town for a time, removing to Chester, Vt.

He was the son of Carmillus Warner who died in military service during the Civil War, and grandson of Selah Warner who lived just over the line between Londonderry and Landgrove, in the latter town.

One Curtis Warner once operated a sawmill on Flood Brook, in this town and left descendants, one of whom at least resided in town for a short time; but neither Selah nor Curtis can be connected with the others of the family name before mentioned.

## Whitman

THROUGH researches made by members of the family in the present generation, it appears that the Whitmans who first came to Londonderry traced descent, through Daniel, Ebenezer and John, from John Whitman, who came from England and settled in Weymouth, Mass.

Noah Whitman was born in Attleborough, Mass., then a part of Rehoboth, Aug. 6, 1750 and died at Londonderry, Vt., July 10, 1834.

He, with his brother Abial, came from Westmoreland, N. H. to Vermont about 1792 and, in that year, each took deed of land in that part of ancient Londonderry which a few years later became the town of Windham.

About a year later Noah conveyed his land there to one Vesey and purchased from "the Committee" a full two-hundred acre lot lying on what is called "Melendy Hill," southwest of the village of South Londonderry, and there was his home until his death. He married Persis Pratt, who bore him three sons and five daughters, of whom the five oldest were born in Westmoreland, N. H. and the others within the limits of ancient Londonderry, one in that part now Windham and the two youngest on the old hill homestead. These children were; Hannah, Sept. 6, 1778; Alanson, Oct. 19, 1780;



Lyman, Dec. 1, 1782; Fanny, Oct. 29, 1785; Persis, Sept. 24, 1788; Anna, Apr. 28, 1793; Clarissa, Apr. 15, 1795; and Noah, May 12, 1798, the last of whom died in early childhood.

*Hannah* married Richmond Horton and was the mother of Deacon Richmond Horton who spent his long life in town on the farm where he was born, still known as "the Horton Place." She also had one daughter, Hannah, who married Ezra Brown.

*Alanson* married Catherine G. Warfield and had a large family, all his children, save two, living to maturity. He died Oct. 25, 1860.

*Lyman* married Mary Gibson and had four children: Cynthia, who died in childhood; John G., Nov. 13, 1809; Mary, Mar. 8, 1812, and Silas, Aug. 16, 1817.

*Fanny* married Jacob Hogeboom.

*Persis* married Benjamin Baldwin and had two sons, Horace D. and Curtis, who lived to maturity, and two other children who died in infancy.

*Anna* died unmarried.

*Clarissa* married John Hogeboom.

The children of Alanson and Catherine G. (Warfield) were: Loring, Apr. 22, 1803; Alanson, Jr., Apr. 19, 1805; Lyman, Mar. 13, 1807; Persis, Feb. 19, 1809; Noah (2nd), Mar. 25, 1811; Fanny, Nov. 22, 1812; Hiram, Nov. 8, 1814; Noah (3d), Nov. 4, 1816; Cynthia, Feb. 19, 1819; Nelson, Mar. 17, 1821; Catherine G., Apr. 3, 1823.

*Loring* married Electra Aldrich by whom he had a son, Charles L., and two daughters, Althine and Catherine. Charles L. served in the Mexican War as a private in Co. I, First Mass. Vols., enlisting from Boston. He married Henrietta Stowell and died, childless.

Althine married but died without issue. Catherine married ——— Curtis and is said to have had three daughters.

*Alanson, Jr.* married Jane Gardner, had two sons, Frank W. and George H., and a daughter, Mary Matilda. Frank W. was a physician and practiced for some years in Bellows Falls, and died, Dec. 20, 1910, leaving no descendants surviving. George H. died without issue. Mary M. married Matthias Haynes and had son, Frank D. who died in Pennsylvania where he had for several years had his home.

*Lyman* died, in Londonderry, Dec. 14, 1877, and the records state that he was a "widower," but the name of his deceased wife is not there found, nor is it learned by inquiry among surviving members of the family name. Nothing is learned as to any child of his and it is believed he left no descendant.

*Persis* died in her second year.

*Noah (2nd)* died in early childhood.

*Fanny* married Hiram Robinson and had a daughter, Mary Jane, who married Frederick W. Marsh and died childless.

*Hiram* married Hannah E. Gove, had a son, James Henry, and died Nov. 18, 1897, leaving as the best part of his family's heritage an unfading memory of kindly acts and unostentatious benevolence that had warmed and brightened many a clouded life and troubled heart. Many of these kindly deeds were so quietly accomplished that not even the recipients knew whence the aid came, and, doubtless, many of his acts of benevolence will never be known until the final great reckoning. To the end of his life he cherished deep interest and love for the town which was the old family home. His son, James H., married Minerva B. Rogerson, had one son, Allan Hiram, and died Oct. 11, 1915.

*Noah* (3d) married Sarah Reynolds and died Oct. 4, 1891, leaving three children: Ellen S. and Charles, both of whom died unmarried, though of mature years, and Warren H. who married Dellfa Pelkey.

*Cynthia* married Joel Thompson and had three daughters (see *Thompson Family Sketch*). She died, June 26, 1886, in Londonderry.

*Nelson* married Susan G. Higgins and moved to the western part of the state of New York. They had five children: Wayland, Herbert, Lyman, Isella and Hiram R. Nelson died in December, 1910.

*Catherine G.* married Harley B. Woods and died Sept. 16, 1883. She had one daughter, Emma, who married Jean C. Bracq and resides in Keene, N. H. She also had a son, George, of whom the only information given is that he married and had one child, possibly more than one.

Of the children of Lyman and Mary (Gibson) Whitman three lived to maturity. John G. married Emeline Chase and spent his life in Londonderry, where he died, March 8, 1888. His children were: Cynthia, Mary Jane, Ellen, Orrin, Ora, Emma and Effie. Cynthia died unmarried.

ABIAL WHITMAN, brother of Noah, with whom he came to Vermont about 1792, married Alice Dunham in Westmoreland, N. H. Nov. 29, 1787. They had a family of six sons and three daughters, Electa, Sarah, and Alice. The sons were: Abial, Jr., Ira, Ara, Daniel, Ona and Asa, all of whom at some period of their lives were residents of this town, though their father resided in Windham until his decease.

*Abial, Jr.* was born Mar. 30, 1788 and died Nov. 27, 1866. He married Hannah Sawtelle and they had twelve children: Abial (3d), Aug. 18, 1812; Hannah, Aug. 14, 1814; Sawtelle, May 17, 1816; Sarah, Sept. 11, 1818; Adaline, Sept. 6, 1820; Harriet, Jan. 10, 1823; Elsie, Feb. 5, 1825; Esther, Sept. 2, 1827; Alvah, June 19, 1829; Alice, Feb. 1, 1832; Asa, July 18, 1834, and Ira E., Nov. 24, 1836.



*Abial* (3d) married Aurilla Farr. He went to California in 1849 and in the following year, having become broken in health, started on his return home by voyage around "the Horn." He died on the voyage and was buried at sea.

*Hannah* married Clark Bennett, had a family of twelve children and died Feb. 10, 1883.

*Sawtelle* married Marietta ———, had a son, Alvah, and died Sept. 28, 1887.

*Sarah* married George Hewes and died, childless, Mar. 19, 1840.

*Adaline* married Josiah Pierce and had five daughters and one son, of whom only one daughter, Hattie A., lived to maturity. She died at the home of her daughter, the old Pierce homestead, Jan. 29, 1911.

*Harriet* married Luther Justin Albee, had three daughters and one son and died Feb. 18, 1908.

*Elsie* died Aug. 22, 1840, unmarried.

*Esther* married Amasa A. Chase and bore him two sons, Julius and Irvin, and was later married to Amori E. Fuller whom she survived. There was no child by this second marriage.

*Alvah* was twice married; by his first wife, Mary Albee, he had Alma, Harriet and Edgar, and by his second wife, Josephine Robinson Churchill, Mary and Inez. He moved from town about 1870 to the middle west where he died.

*Alice* married Willard M. Bemis and died without children.

*Asa*, when about three years old, fell in the fireplace and died from the burns sustained.

*Ira E.* married three times. His first wife, and mother of all his children, was Lizzie Chase; his second wife was Eliza Chamberlain, and his third was Nancy S. (Farr) Clay. His children were; Arthur, Edwin, Etta, Bertha, Grace and Rowe.

*Ira*, second son of Abial and Alice, married Mary Thompson and remained in town until his death, ———. He had no children.

*Ara* was twice married. His first wife, Abigail Hoskins, bore him one son, Fernando, who died in childhood; and by his second wife, Elvira Thompson he had eight children who lived to maturity and two who died in infancy; Ella married William N. Turner; Emma married Henry G. Howard; Lina married Artemas W. J. Wilkins; Asa married Stella Goodell; Celia died unmarried; Orlando married ——— and moved to Chicago; Mary married Frank Sparrow, and Lettie E. married Peter Smith.

*Daniel* had two wives; the first, Esther Hoskins, had four children; Martin D. who married Maria E. Chase and upon her decease without child he

married her sister, Miranda E. Chase who bore him one son, Frank; Abby married Winslow Puffer; Charles died on his twenty-first birthday, unmarried, and Adna was drowned in boyhood. Daniel's second wife was Rhoda (Hart) Chase by whom he had no child.

*Ona* married Cynthia Hadley and they had three sons and a daughter who lived to maturity; Larkin who, while a young man, went to California and never returned, nor did the family have further knowledge of him thereafter other than a rumor that he died there not long after; Dana who served as a soldier in the Civil War and later moved to the "Middle West"; Edwin who also was a soldier and died in hospital from disease contracted in military service; and Lauraette who died unmarried. Ona's second wife was Lucinda Pierce and seven children were born of this second marriage; Lydia O., Emma O., Alvaroy S., Eugene H., Ellen L., Adonno A., and Elsie A.

*Lydia O.* married Winslow Rhodes, of Bridgeport, Conn. and had a son, Ona, and a daughter Verna.

*Emma O.* married William Lyman, of Stratton, Vt. and bore him four children: Roy W., Ona R., Ray E., and May M.

*Alvaroy S.* married Annie Coombs and lived in So. Dakota. He had six children: Ethel, Rena, Carrie, Addie, Mary and Sidney.

*Eugene H.* first married Emma Patterson by whom he had one daughter, Emma E. For second wife he married Azelia Knapp and then moved to Michigan. Five daughters were the fruit of this marriage: Lillian, Cora, Ellioese, Daisy and Ruth.

*Ellen L.* died in her youth.

*Adonno A.* married Carrie Eddy and had two daughters, Carroll and Helen, and a son Ona.

*Elsie A.* died in childhood.

*Asa*, youngest son of Abial and Alice, married Mercy Thompson, had two sons and two daughters, and died June 5, 1886. His children were Charles Asa, whose wife was Flotyna Cheney and who lived and died in Florida, leaving a son, Alton B., and two daughters; Mary and Alice; Celinda, who married Ransley Harrington; Alma A. who never married, and Yates Carey who died unmarried.

Two of the three daughters of Abial and Alice (Dunham) were married and one, Sarah, died in girlhood. Electa married Benjamin Sumner and had one child, Sarah. Alice married Jeremiah Barrett and went to the western part of New York to live. She had a son and a daughter.



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# Original Documents of Londonderry

To the *Honorable* CADWALLADER COLDEN, Esq., His Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the province of New York and territories depending thereon in America.

## IN COUNCIL

The Petition of James Rogers in behalf of himself and twenty-two other persons *Humbly sheweth*:

That your petitioner and his associates apprehended they had a good right and title to twenty six thousand acres of land by a grant from Governor Wentworth, lying on the east side of the water running from South Bay to Ticonderoga. That on the twentieth day of July one thousand seven hundred and sixty four by the Resolve of his Majesty and his Majesty's privy Council, the said lands fell within the bounds of this province and that some time last Spring the same lands were granted by your Honor to reduced officers, whereby your petitioner and his associates must inevitably loose their rights unless your Honours will be pleased to make them a grant in some other lands in this province:

That there is a certain tract of land lying in this province bounding on the West side of Tomlinson, beginning at the south westerly corner of Chester and running west twenty seven degrees north seven miles and thirty-eight chains; Then south ten degrees west seven miles seventy-six chains; Then east ten degrees south six miles eight chains; Then north twenty degrees east six miles to the place from whence the survey began, containing in the whole twenty-six thousand acres with an allowance of three thousand acres of mountains.

Your petitioner for himself and associates therefore humbly prays that your Honours will be favorably pleased, by his Majesty's Letter Patent to grant unto them, Under the great seal of this province, the above bounded and described land and premises to hold to them, their heirs and assigns forever, and that the same be erected into a township by the name of Kent and vested with such powers and privileges as other towns in this province have and do enjoy.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound will ever pray.

*New York twelvth October one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five.*

JAS. ROGERS.

A LIST OF THE PROPRIETORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KENT  
 James Rogers, James MacGregor, Sen., Margaret Rogers, Thomas Creage,  
 James A. Adams, James (Miltmer), Jonathan Gillmore, Robert Hunter,  
 William Moore, Garret Schooler, Benjamin (Lindner), John McGinnis,  
 James Carroll, David Phillips, Edward (Landree), Cornelius Ryan, Andrew  
 Burn, Robert Wallace, Thomas Blaknie, Joseph Cox, John Armstrong,  
 Lewis Hamilton, Patrick Butler.

### PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF MISTAKES

To his *Excellency* SIR HENRY MOORE, Baronet, Captain-General, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the province of New York and the territories depending thereon in America, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same —

### IN COUNCIL

The petition of James Rogers for himself and his associates *Humbly Sheweth* —

That there was a mistake in the bounds mentioned in the petition and warrant of survey of the town of Kent on the east side gives the point from the south east corner to river north twenty degrees east, and the line of Tomlinson is north seven degrees east; So that there will be a gore left between Thomlinson and Kent, and your petitioner and his associates will not have their complement of land without infringing on some other town.

Your petitioner therefore for himself and his associates humbly pray your Honours to take the matter into your wise consideration and upon examination find the mistake truly represented, you will be pleased to grant to your petitioner and his associates the said tract of land to begin at Chester south west corner and to bound north on Andover, west partly on Bromley and partly on Winhall, south on (un-) granted land and east on Thomlinson which it is true bounds as may more fully appear by the Surveyor General's plans.

Your petitioner for himself and his associates humbly prays your Excellency will be pleased to rectify the said mistake and order the Surveyor General to make return of the Survey bill of Kent as it truly is.

And your petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray, etc.

*New York thirtieth June One thousand seven hundred sixty-six.*

JAMES ROGERS.

## Charter of the Township of Kent

Letters Patent, or Grant of this Township, appear recorded in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, N. Y. and such record is here given in full as it there appears.

The original parchments are preserved in the hands of descendants of Colonel James Rogers, original grantee, now resident in the Province of Ontario, Canada.



## Charter

GEORGE the Third by the *Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith and so forth.* To all to whom these Presents shall come GREETING.

*Whereas* our Province of New York in America hath ever since the Grant thereof to James Duke of York, been abutted and bounded to the East in part by the West Bank or side of Connecticut River. And Whereas of late years great part of our said Province lying to the Westward of the same River, hath nevertheless been pretended to be granted by divers instruments under the Great Seal of the Province of New Hampshire, as tho' the same Lands had then belonged to, and were within the Bounds and Limits of the said Province of New Hampshire, and within the powers and Jurisdiction of the Government thereof. And Whereas our loving Subject James Rogers by his humble petition in behalf of Himself and twenty two other Persons presented unto our late trusty and welbeloved Sir Henry Moore Baronet, then our Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over our Province of New York, and the Territories depending thereon in America, and read in our Council for our said Province of New York on the second day of June which was in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty six, did set forth, That the Petitioner and his Associates apprehended they had a good Right and Title to twenty six thousand acres of land lying on the East side of the Water running from South Bay to Ticonderoga, under one of the pretended Grants above mentioned: That the said Lands had since our Royal Order in our Privy Council of the twentieth day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty four, been granted to reduced Officers, whereby the Petitioner and his Associates must inevitably lose their Rights, unless a Grant should be made to them of other lands in our said Province of New York. That there is a certain Tract of Land lying in our said Province of New York bounded on the West side of a certain Tract of Land commonly called and known by the name of Tomlinson, Beginning at the South-westerly Corner of Chester and running west twenty seven degrees North Seven Miles and thirty eight Chains, then South ten degrees West seven Miles and seventy six Chains; then East ten degrees South six Miles and eight Chains; then North twenty degrees east six miles to the place of beginning containing twenty six thousand Acres. And therefore the Petitioner did humbly pray our Letters Patent under the Great Seal of our said Province of New York, granting unto him and his Associates their Heirs and Assigns, the Tract of Land bounded and described as aforesaid, and that the same might be erected into a Township by the name of Kent, and vested with such Powers and Privileges as other Towns in our said Province of New York have and do enjoy. Which Petition having been then and there read and referred to a Committee of our Council for our said Province of New York, our same Council did afterwards on the same day in pursuance of the Report of the said Committee, humbly advise our said late Captain General and Governor in Chief of our said Province of New York to grant the Prayer thereof, under the quit Rent Provisoes Limitations and Restrictions prescribed by our Royal Instructions; the quantity of three hundred and fifty Acres of the said Tract of Land to be granted to the use of the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts;



the like quantity thereof to be granted as a Glebe for the use of the Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by law established for the Time being residing on the said Tract; the like quantity thereof to be granted for the Minister of the Gospel who shall first settle on the said Tract; and the quantity of one hundred acres thereof for the use of a Schoolmaster residing on the said Tract; And whereas the said James Rogers by his humble petition in behalf of himself and his Associates presented on the sixteenth day of January now last past, unto our trusty and well beloved Cadwallader Colden Esquire our Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province of New York and the territories depending thereon in America, Hath set forth, among other things, that having procured an actual Survey of the said Tract of Land at considerable Expence, the same was found to contain twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres; That the said Tract of Land tho within the Lands formerly claimed by the Government of New Hampshire had not been granted by that Government and remains still vacant and vested in Us; And therefore the Petitioner on behalf of himself and his Associates, did humbly pray that the letters patent ordered on the said first recited Petition, might issue for the Lands so surveyed as aforesaid, in the name of the Petitioner, and in the names of his Associates mentioned in the Schedule or List at the foot of the said last recited Petition; In Pursuance whereof, and in Obedience to our said Royal Instructions, our Commissioners appointed for the setting out all Lands to be granted within our said Province of New York, have set out for the said James Rogers and for his Associates named in the Schedule aforesaid, to wit, Daniel Goldsmith, Daniel Goldsmith, junior, Henry Shute, Garret Vandenberg, Joseph Cox, David Philips, Cornelius Ryan, Cornelius Van den Bergh, Andries Ringlear, Adam Vandenberg, Caleb Hyatt, George Hopson, William Shooler, Benjamin Betts, James Smith, John Woods, Edward Laight, Thomas Ivers, Adolph De Grove, Joshua T. De St. Croix, Alexander Wilson, and James McCartney, All that certain Tract or Parcel of Land situate lying and being in the County of Cumberland within our Province of New York, beginning at the Northwest corner of a Tract of Land lately granted to John Hall late Lieutenant in our eightieth Regiment of Foot and runs thence South eighty degrees East five hundred and seventy two Chains; then North seven degrees East three hundred and sixty Chains; then North sixty three degrees West five hundred and seventy nine Chains; then South ten degrees West five hundred and twenty nine Chains to the Place where this tract first began containing twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land and the usual allowance for Highways; And also our said Commissioners have set out the several Lots hereinafter described, Parts and parcels of the said Larger tract for the several and respective Uses and Purposes herein before mentioned, that is to say, For the use of the incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign Parts, all that certain Lot or parcel of Land part of the larger Tract hereinbefore described, Beginning at the Distance of two hundred and seventy five Chains, measured on a Course North Seventy Degrees East from the said Northwest Corner of the said Tract lately granted to John Hall; and this lot runs from the said Place of Beginning South eighty degrees East sixty Chains and three Rods, then North ten Degrees East sixty Chains and three Rods, then North ten degrees West sixty Chains and three Rods; then South ten degrees West sixty Chains and three Rods, to the Place where this Lot first began, con-



taining three hundred and fifty Acres of Land and the usual Allowance for Highways. For a Glebe for the use of the Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by Law established, for the Time being residing on the said larger Tract, All that certain Lott or Parcel of Land part of the said larger Tract hereinbefore described Beginning at the North East Corner of the Lot set out for and to granted to the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and runs from the said Place of Beginning North eighty Degrees West sixty Chains and three Rods, then North ten degrees East sixty Chains and three Rods; then South eighty degrees East sixty Chains and three Rods, and then South ten degrees West sixty Chains and three Rods to the Place where this Tract or Lot first began, containing three hundred and fifty Acres of Land and the usual Allowance for Highways. For the first settled Minister on the larger Tract aforesaid, All that certain Lot or Parcel of Land part of the larger Tract described as aforesaid, Beginning at the North East Corner of the lot set out for the said Society, and runs thence South ten degrees West sixty Chains and three rods; then South eighty degrees East sixty Chains and three rods; then North ten degrees East sixty Chains and three Rods; and then North eighty degrees West sixty Chains and three Rods, to the Place where this Tract or Lot first began containing three hundred and fifty Acres of Land and the usual Allowance for Highways; And for the use of a Schoolmaster residing on the said larger Tract, All that certain Lot or Parcel of land part of the aforesaid larger Tract, Beginning at the Southeast Corner of the Lot set out for the Glebe; and runs thence North ten degrees East sixty Chains and three Rods; then South eighty degrees East seventeen Chains and one Rod; then South ten degrees West sixty Chains and three Rods, and then North eighty degrees West seventeen Chains and one Rod, to the Place where this Lot first began containing one hundred Acres of Land and the usual Allowance for highways. And in setting out the said larger Tract of Land, and the several Lots and Parcels of Land last described, our said Commissioners have had regard to the profitable and unprofitable Acres, and have taken Care that the Length of any of them doth not extend along the Banks of any River, otherwise than is conformable to our said Royal Instructions, as by a Certificate thereof under their hands bearing date the seventh day of this instant Month of February, and entered on Record in our Secretary's Office for our said Province of New York may more fully appear: Which said Tract of Twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land and the usual Allowance for Highways so set out as aforesaid according to our said Royal Instructions, We being willing to grant to the said Petitioner and his Associates abovenamed, their heirs and Assigns for ever, with the several Powers and Privileges and to and upon the Several and respective Use and Uses, Trusts, Intents and Purposes Limitations and Appointments, and under the several Reservations, Exceptions, Provisoos and Conditions, hereinafter expressed, limited, declared and appointed of and concerning the same and of and concerning every Part and Parcel thereof; KNOW YE that of our especial Grace certain Knowledge and meer motion, We have given, granted, ratified and confirmed, and do by these Presents for Us our heirs and Successors give grant ratify and confirm unto them the said James Rogers, Daniel Goldsmith, Daniel Goldsmith junior, Henry Shute, Garret Vandenberg, Joseph Cox, David Phillips, Cornelius Ryan, Cornelius Van den Bergh, Andries Ringlear, Adam Van den Bergh, Caleb Hyatt, George Hopson,



William Shooler, Benjamin Betts, James Smith, John Woods, Edward Laight, Thomas Ivers, Adolph De Grove, Joshua T. De St. Croix, Alexander Wilson and James McCartney their heirs and Assigns, All that the aforesaid large Tract or Parcel of Land set out abutted bounded and described by our said Commissioners in manner and form as abovementioned, including all the aforementioned several smaller Tracts or Lots of Land set out and described by our said Commissioners as parts and Parcels thereof, Containing in the whole twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land besides the usual Allowance for Highways; Together with all and Singular the Tenements Hereditaments Emoluments and Appurtenances to the same and every Part and Parcel thereof belonging or appertaining. And also all our Estate Right Title Interest Possession Claim and Demand whatsoever of in and to the same Lands and Premises and every Part and Parcel thereof. And the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders Rents Issues and Profits thereof and of every Part and Parcel thereof; Except and always reserved out of this our present Grant unto Us our heirs and Successors for ever All Mines of Gold and Silver, and also all White or other sorts of Pine Trees fit for Masts of the Growth of twenty four Inches Diameter and upwards at Twelve Inches from the Earth, for Masts for the Royal Navy of us our heirs and Successors.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Tract of twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land, Tenements Hereditaments and Premises by these Presents granted ratified and confirmed, and every Part and Parcel thereof; with their and every of their Appurtenances (Except as is hereinbefore excepted) unto them our grantees abovementioned their heirs and Assigns for ever, to for and upon the several and respective Use and Uses, Trusts, Intents and Purposes hereinafter expressed limited declared and appointed of and concerning the same and of and concerning the said respective lots herein mentioned and expressed to be set out by our said Commissioners as parts and Parcels thereof, and to and for no other Use or Uses Intent or Purpose whatsoever, that is to say, As for and concerning All that the beforementioned small Tract Lot or Parcel of Land so set out for the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, as aforesaid, being part and Parcel of the said Large Tract of twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land and Premises hereby granted ratified and confirmed and every part and Parcel of the same Lot of Land with the Appurtenances to the same belonging (Except as is hereinbefore excepted), To and for the only proper and Separate Use and Behoof of the Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts abovementioned, and their Successors for ever, and to and for no other Use or uses intent or purpose Whatsoever. And as for and concerning All that the beforementioned small Tract, Lot or Parcel of Land so set out as and for a Glebe for the use of a Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by Law Established, being part and Parcel of the said large tract of twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land and Premises hereby granted ratified and confirmed, and every Part and Parcel of the same Lot of Land with the Appurtenances to the same belonging (Except as is hereinbefore excepted), in Trust as and for a Glebe for ever to and for the only proper and separate use Benefit and Behoof of the first Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by Law established, having the Cure of Souls and residing in the said large Tract of



Land hereby granted, and his Successors for ever, for the Time being residing as aforesaid, and to and for no other Use or Uses, Intent or Purpose whatsoever. And as for and concerning All that the beforementioned small Tract Lot or Parcel of Land so set out for the first settled Minister in the said large Tract of Land hereby granted, the same being part and parcel of the said large Tract of twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land and Premises hereby granted ratified and confirmed, and every Part and Parcel of the same Lot of Land, with the Appurtenances to the same belonging (Except as is herein before excepted), In Trust to and for the sole proper and separate Use Benefit and Behoof of the first Minister of the Gospel that shall be settled and officiating on the said large Tract of Land hereby granted, his heirs and Assigns for ever, and in Trust also That our said Grantees their heirs or Assigns, shall and do well and truly by good and sufficient Assurances in the Law, convey the same last mentioned small Tract or Lot of Land with the Appurtenances to such Minister of the Gospel as shall be first settled and officiating as aforesaid, his heirs and Assigns for ever, in fee simple, as soon as may be after such Minister shall be settled and officiating as aforesaid, and to and for no other use or Uses, Intent or Purpose whatsoever. And as for and concerning All that other small Tract Lot or Parcel of Land so set out for the use of a Schoolmaster, being also part and Parcel of the said large Tract of twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land and Premises, hereby granted ratified and confirmed, and every Part and Parcel of the same Lot of Land with the Appurtenances to the same belonging (Except as is herein before excepted) In Trust for ever to and for the sole and separate use Benefit and Behoof of the first publick Schoolmaster of the Township by these Presents constituted and erected, officiating and Resident in the same Township and his Successors Schoolmasters as aforesaid for ever, and to and for no other Use or uses, intent or Purpose whatsoever.

And as for and concerning All the rest residue and remainder of the said tract of twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land Tenements Hereditaments and Premises by these presents granted ratified and confirmed, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD one full and equal twenty third Part (the whole into twenty three equal parts to be divided) of the said rest residue and remainder, and every Part and Parcel thereof, with all and every the Appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining, (Except as is herein before excepted) unto each of them the said James Rogers, Daniel Goldsmith, Daniel Goldsmith junior, Henry Shute, Garret Van den Bergh, Joseph Cox, David Philips, Cornelius Ryan, Cornelius Van den Bergh, Andries Riglear, Adam Van den Bergh, Caleb Hyatt, George Hopson, William Shooler, Benjamin Betts, James Smith, John Woods, Edward Laight, Thomas Ivers, Adolph DeGrove, Joshua T. De St. Croix, Alexander Wilson and James McCartney their heirs and Assigns respectively; To their only proper and separate Use and Behoof respectively for ever as Tenants in Common and not as joint Tenants, and to and for no other use or uses, Intent or Purpose whatsoever. All and singular the said Tract of twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres of Land and Premises hereby granted and every Part and Parcel thereof To be Holden of us our heirs and Successors in free and common Socage, as of our Manor of East Greenwich in our County of Kent within our Kingdom of Great Britain. Yielding rendering and paying therefore yearly and every year for ever unto us our heirs and successors, at our Custom House in our City of



New York, unto our or their Collector or Receiver General there for the Time being, on the Feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary Commonly called Lady Day the yearly rent of Two shillings and six Pence Sterling for each and every hundred Acres of the above granted Lands, and so in proportion for any lesser quantity thereof, saving and except for such Part of the said Lands allowed for Highways as above mentioned, in Lieu and Stead of all other Rents Services Dues Duties and Demands whatsoever, for the hereby granted lands and Premises or any part thereof. And we do of our especial Grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, create erect and constitute the said large Tract of Land containing twenty four thousand one hundred and fifty Acres as aforesaid, hereby granted and every Part and Parcel thereof, a Township for ever hereafter to be, continue and remain, and by the name of Kent for ever hereafter to be called and known. And for the better and more easily carrying on and managing the Publick Affairs and Business of the said Township, Our Royal Will and Pleasure is, And we do hereby for us our Heirs and Successors give and grant to the Inhabitants of the said Township All the Powers Authorities Privileges and Advantages heretofore given and granted to or legally enjoyed by all any or either our other Townships within our said Province of New York; And we do also ordain and establish that there shall be for ever hereafter in the said Township Two Assessors, one Treasurer, two overseers of the Highways, Two overseers of the Poor, one Collector and four Constables, elected and chosen out of the Inhabitants of the said Township yearly and every year on the first Tuesday in March, at the most Publick Place in the said Township, by the Majority of the Freeholders thereof then and there met and assembled for that Purpose, hereby declaring that wheresoever the first Election in the said Township shall be held, the future elections shall for ever thereafter be held in the same Place as near as may be, and giving and granting to the said Officers so chosen Power and Authority to exercise their said several and respective Offices during the whole Year from such Election, and until others are legally chosen and elected in their Room and Stead, as fully and amply as any the like Officers have, or legally may use or exercise their Offices in our said Province of New York; And in case any or either of the said Officers of the said Township should die or remove from the said Township before the time of their annual Service Shall be expired, or refuse to act in the Offices for which they shall be respectively chosen, Then our Royal Will and Pleasure further is, And we do hereby direct ordain and require the Freeholders of the said Township to meet at the Place where the Annual election shall be held for the said Township, and chuse other or others of the said Inhabitants of the said Township in the Place and Stead of him or them so dying removing or refusing to act, within forty days next after such contingency; And to prevent any undue Election in this Case, We do hereby ordain and require that upon every vacancy in the office of Assessors, the Treasurer and in either of the other Offices, the Assessors of the said Township, shall within ten days next after any such vacancy first happens, appoint the Day for such Election, and give publick Notice thereof in writing under his or their hands, by affixing such Notice on the Church Door or other Most Publick Place in the said Township at the least ten Days before the Day appointed for such Election; And in Default thereof We do hereby require the Officer or Officers of the said Township, or the Survivor of them, who in the order they are hereinbefore mentioned,



shall next succeed him or them so making Default, within ten Days next after such Default to appoint the Day for such Election, and give notice thereof as aforesaid, hereby giving and granting that such person or Persons as shall be chosen by the Majority of such of the Freeholders of the said Township as shall meet in manner hereby directed, shall have hold exercise and enjoy the Office or Offices to which he or they shall be so elected exercise and enjoy the Office or Offices to which he or they shall be so elected and chosen from the Time of such Election until the first Tuesday in March then next following, and until other or others be legally chosen in his or their place and Stead, as fully as the Person or Persons in whose Place he or they shall be chosen might or could have done by virtue of these Presents: And we do hereby Will and direct that this Method shall for ever hereafter be used for the filling up all vacancies that shall happen in any or either of the said Offices between the annual Elections above directed; Provided always and upon condition nevertheless, That if our said Grantees their heirs or Assigns, or some or one of them shall not within three years next after the date of this our present grant, settle on the said Tract of Land hereby granted, so many families as shall amount to one family for every thousand Acres of the same Tract; Or if they our said Grantees or one of them their or one of their heirs or Assigns, shall not also within Three Years to be computed as aforesaid plant and effectually cultivate at the least three Acres for every Fifty Acres of such of the hereby granted Lands as are capable of Cultivation, or if they our said Grantees or any of them their or any of their Heirs or Assigns or any other Person or Persons by their or any of their Privity Consent or Procurement shall fell cut down or otherwise destroy any of the Pine Trees by these Presents reserved to us our Heirs and Successors, or hereby intended so to be, without the Royal Licence of Us our Heirs or Successors for so doing first had and obtained, that then and in any of these Cases this our Present Grant and every thing therein contained shall cease and be absolutely void, and the Lands and Premises hereby granted shall revert to and vest in us our heirs and Successors, as if this our present Grant had not been made, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. Provided further and upon Condition also nevertheless, and We do hereby for us our heirs and Successors direct and appoint, that this our present Grant shall be registered and entered on Record within Six Months from the date thereof, in our Secretary's Office in our City of New York, in our said Province of New York, in one of the Books of Patents there remaining; and that a Docquet thereof shall be also entered in our Auditor's Office there for our said Province of New York and that in default thereof this our present grant shall be void and of none Effect, any thing before in these presents contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And we do moreover of our especial Grace certain knowledge and meer motion consent and agree, that this our present Grant being registered and recorded and a Docquet thereof made as before directed and appointed, shall be good and effectual in the Law to all Intents Constructions and Purposes whatsoever against us our heirs and Successors, notwithstanding any misreciting, misbounding misnaming or other Imperfection or Omission of in or in any wise concerning the above granted or hereby mentioned or intended to be granted Lands Tenements Hereditaments and Premises or any part thereof.

*In Testimony* whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of our said Province of New York to be hereunto affixed.

*Witness* our said trusty and well beloved Cadwallader Colden Esquire our Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America, At our Fort in our City of New York the thirteenth day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy and of our Reign the Tenth.

(Second Skin line the fifteenth part of the word *South* line the sixteenth part of the word *East*, Line the twenty fourth part of the Word *Assigns* and Line the twenty fifth part of the Word *Limitations* wrote on Razures. and in the third Skin Line the forty fifth the word *do* interlined.

Clarke.

In the preceding Certificate and Letters Patent recorded for James Rogers and his Associates, page 2 last line the Words *the use of* interlined; Page 5 Line 11 the Words *that Government*; Page 6 Line 18 the Word *last*, Page 7, Line 19, the word *or* and Page 11 Line 11 the Word *or* wrote on Razures; Examined and compared with their respective originals this 22d February 1770 By Me

GO BANYAR  
D Secry

#### EXTRACTS FROM "ASSEMBLY JOURNAL," STATE OF VERMONT, (Vol. 1).

March 14th, 1780.

\*\*\* The petition from the inhabitants of Kent which was referred from the 13th inst. was read and referred to a committee of two to join a committee from the Council and make report to this House. The members chosen, Mr. Jones and Mr. Curtis.

March 15th, 1780.

\*\*\* Resolved that this Assembly will not grant any lands this session except Royalton and Kent.

March 16th, 1780.

\*\*\* The committee to whom was referred this petition from the inhabitants of Kent brought in the following report, viz., That it is our opinion that the tracts of land now known by the name of Kent be granted to a committee of trust who are to be under the direction of the Governor and Council, by the name of Londonderry, under such regulations as they shall think proper.

IRA ALLEN, *Chairman*.



The above report was read and accepted, and Resolved that there be and hereby is granted by this Assembly unto such persons as the Governor and Council shall direct a township of land (formerly known by the name of Kent) lying and being in this state to be incorporated by the name of Londonderry, and the Governor and Council are hereby requested to make out a charter of incorporation as specified in the petition, under such conditions, reservations and restrictions as they shall judge proper for the benefit of this state.\*\*\*

The petition above referred to is not to be found in the *State Papers* in the office of the Secretary of State.

## THE CHARTER OF LONDONDERRY

SS

The GOVERNOR, COUNCIL, & *General Assembly of Representatives*  
of the *Freemen* of VERMONT

*To all People to whom these Presents shall come* GREETING,

*Know ye* that whereas, the General Assembly of this State did at their Sessions, held at Westminster in March last, Resolve to Grant unto a Committee to be appointed for that purpose, a certain tract of Land as hereafter described. We have therefore Given and Granted, and by these Presents do give and Grant, unto our worthy Friends, Edward Akin, Samuel Fletcher, & Joseph Tyler Esquires, who are appointed a Committee as aforementioned, and to their heirs and assigns, a certain tract or Parcel of Land, situate within this State, and in the County of Cumberland, bounded as follows viz. BEGINNING, at a black spruce tree two rods from the East side of a brook commonly known by the name of the south branch of Williams' River, and about two rods north of where the road now goes from Manchester to Chester across said Brook, which tree has been Marked for the southeast corner of Andover, thence running north sixty three degrees West, seven Miles and three quarters, to a Yellow Birch tree, thence south ten degrees West six miles to a small black spruce, thence south sixty three degrees east seven miles and three quarters to a small white beach, thence North ten degs, East six miles to the first mentioned bounds. Reserving five sixty fifth equal parts to be appropriated to public uses as follows viz. one equal part for the use & support of a simenary or College within this State, one equal part for the use and support of the County Grammar schools throughout this State, one equal part for the use and support of the first settled Minister of the Gospel in said Town, to be disposed of for that purpose as the Inhabitants thereof shall direct, one equal part for the support of the Ministry, and one equal part for the benefit and support of a school or schools within said Town.

And that the same be and hereby is Incorporated into a Township by the name of LONDONDARY, & the Inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit said Township are declared to be Infranchised and entitled to all the previledges, and Immunities that other Towns within this State do by Law exercise and enjoy.

To have and to hold the said Granted premises as above described, with every previledge and appurtenance therein contained, to the aforesaid Edward Akin, Samuel Fletcher, and Joseph Tyler, to them and their Heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony whereof we have caused the seal of this State to be affixed at Arlington in the County of Bennington this 20th day of April A.D. 1780, and in the fourth year of the Independence of this, and the United States of America.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

*Attest*

JOSEPH FAY, *Secy.*

### PETITION

To his *Excellency* THOMAS CHITTENDEN *Esq.* their honors the Council, and the Honorable House of Representatives of the State of Vermont, in general assembly convened, the petition of Capt. Edward Aiken, Moses Grimes, Hugh Montgomery, Robert Montgomery & Samuel Eyres humbly show

That whereas there is a certain gore of land lying west of the township of Londonderry, containing by estimation eight hundred acres which hath not yet been granted we your honors, Petitioners humbly pray that s'd gore may be granted to us, at such time and under such Consideration as your honors in your Wisdom shall see fit and we as in duty bound shall ever pray.

### GRANT OF AIKEN'S GORE

SS

The GOVERNOR, COUNCIL and *General Assembly of the Freemen*  
of the *State* of VERMONT

*To all People to whom this present writing shall come* GREETING,

*Know ye* that whereas Capt. Edward Aikens and his Associates six in number have Petitioned for a Grant of a small gore or tract of unappropriated Land in This State Situate, lying Between and by the Township of Landgrove, Jamaica, Londonderry and Winhall in Order for improving & settleing the same

We have therefore Thought fit for the due Encouragement of their Laudiable design & Other Considerations Us hereunto Moving & do by these presents in the name and By the Authority of the Freemen of the state of Vermont Give and grant the said gore or tract of land Unto him the said Edward Aiken & to the several persons hereafter named Viz:—

Peter Silvester, Peter Silvester second, Nathaniel Brown, Wm. Aiken, Nathn/ Bartlett Brown, And to their respective heirs & Assigns forever in Equal rights or shares, which tract or gore of land Is Situate and Described as follows Viz: Bounding south of landgrove North of Jamaica West of Londonderry & East of Winhall & is Estimated to contain Nine hundred Acres be the Same more or less; which said gore or tract of land is also by these presents annexed to the Township of Londonderry & the Inhabitants



that do Inhabit the said gore are hereby declared To be entitled to all the Privileges & Immunities that the Township of Londonderry Do and ought by the Laws & Constitution of this State to Exercise & enjoy.

To Have & To Hold the said granted Premises as above Expressed with all privileges & Appurtenances thereof in equal Rights or shares unto them the said Edward Aikins, Peter Sylvester, Peter Sylvester 2nd, Nath'l Brown, Wm. Aikins & Nath nl Bartlett Brown & to their respective heirs and assigns Forever Upon the following Condition Viz: that Each Proprietor of said Land, his heirs or Assigns Improve & Cultivate three Acres of said Land or have a family living & settled on the same within the Term of three Years after the Conclusion of the present War Between America & Great Britain On Penalty of the forfeiture of Each respective Right or share of land in said gore or Tract not so Improved or settled & the same to revert to the freemen of this State to be by their representatives re-granted to such persons as shall appear to Cultivate & Settle the same.

In Testimony whereof we have Caused the seal of this State to be Affixed. Done in Council this Twenty-fifth day of Feby in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred & Eighty-two and in the six Year of the Independance of this state.

THOS. CHITTENDEN.

JONA. KNICKERBOCKOR  
*Depy Secry.*

## AN ACT FORMING THE EAST PART OF LONDONDERRY AND MACK'S LEG, IN THE COUNTY OF WINDHAM, INTO A SEPARATE TOWN

*Whereas* it appears to this Assembly, that it is inconvenient for the inhabitants of the east, to assemble with those of the west part of Londonderry, to transact public business.

Therefore, It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That the east half of the town of Londonderry, as divided by a certain line, running parallel with the east and west lines of said town together with a gore of land adjoining the east line of said town, known by the name of Mack's Leg, be and the same is hereby incorporated into a town, by the name of Windham; and the inhabitants residing therein shall have privileges and immunities which the inhabitants of other towns in this State have and enjoy excepting that of electing and sending a representative to the General Assembly, and to Conventions.

II And it is hereby further enacted, That the freemens meeting of the said towns of Londonderry and Windham, shall be holden at the most convenient place near said division line, as shall be appointed by a joint vote of said town; and such meetings shall be warned by the first constable of Londonderry by posting a warning in two of the most public places in each of said towns — and the freemen of said towns, when met, shall jointly choose one representative, to represent them in General Assembly, or in State Conventions. And

III It is hereby further enacted, That the military stores, and other public property, be divided to each town aforesaid, agreeably to the grand list of polls and ratable estate for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

Provided always, that this act affect any cause, or suit, for or against any of the inhabitants of the town of Windham, commenced before this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six.

*Passed Oct. 26, 1795.*

### PETITION

To the *honorable, the general Assembly of the representatives* of the freemen of the STATE of VERMONT, to be holden at Windsor in said state on the second Thursday of this instant October:—

The petition of the inhabitants of the easterly part of Londonderry — humbly sheweth — That said town being divided by a mountain which runs from the south line through the centre of said town and extending nearly to the north line — the meeting therefore of the easterly with those of the westerly part of said town is extremely difficult — and very oppressive for the inhabitants living near the south line.

And whereas said town contains more land than is usual in townships in this state — it being, including two gores which adjoin, one the west and the other the east line, almost nine miles in length.

And whereas nearly all the land east of said mountain will admit of settlement so as to form a compact and convenient town and the settlements thereof having been hitherto under its present situation very much impeded — your petitioners conceive it would be advantageous both for the public and the inhabitants of said town to divide the same equally into two separate towns and therefore desires to be set off from the said town of Londonderry and incorporated into a separate town by the name of Windham.

Therefore your petitioners humbly prays your honors to take the affair into your wise and serious consideration, and if you in your wisdom think it is advisable to grant the prayer of this our humble petition, that the said line of division begin on the north line of said town at an equal distance from the northeast and northwest corner of said town from thence to run parallel with the east and west lines till it intersects the South line of said town — And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Londonderry Oct. 2, 1795.

Samuel Ayers, Jonas Butterfield, Samuel Wheen, Ruben Woodcock, John Woodburn, James Stearns, Patrick Taggard, Benjamin Pierce, Arch'd W. Cormick, Abial Whitman, Daniel Lassbie, Amos Dagrot Jr., Ebenezer Rhoads, Ebenezer Farnsworth, John Mack, Benjamin Cole, James McCormick Sen., Ephriam Amadon, James Mack, Salmon Cole, Lemuel Abbot, Solomon Streeter, James McCormick Jr., Silas Cole, Ira Babbit, Elisha Barker, John Aiken, Archibald Mack, Amasa Cole, Sherebiah Fletcher, George Parsons, George Burnap, George Parsons Jr., Bartholamu Parsons, Benjamin Farmin, Joseph Parsons, Jonathan Brintnell, George W. Murphy, John Williams, Adam Streeter, Judah Dodge, Oliver Capron, Ebenezer Comings, Benjamin Watts, Edward Aiken, Elias C. Amiter, James Aiken, Nehemiah Pierce, John Hopkins, Simeon Smith, Jesse Martin, Zadoc Barrit, Peter Aiken, Lemuel Willis, Moses Reed.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN—

The petition for setting off the east half of Londonderry into a distinct town has been legally notified in said town—

*Certified by* JAMES AIKEN *Town Clerk.*

*7th October 1795.*

To the *Honble* the *General Assembly* to be convened at Rutland on the second Thursday in October next.

The Petition of the subscribers Inhabitants of the Town of Windham in the County of Windham

*Humbly Sheweth.*

That until the division of the Township of Londonderry in October last they were Inhabitants of said Town of Londonderry That the Local situation of their farms are such as renders it extremely difficult for them to convene with the Inhabitants of Windham in Town meetings or for other purposes — That they should be well accommodated if annexed to Londonderry — That if they had had any expectation of being annexed to Windham in the Division of the Town they should have laid their case before the legislature at the time of making the division, but they were ignorant of the transaction until it was too late to make their objections at that time.

Your Petitioners Therefore pray that they may be annexed to the Township of Londonderry & that the dividing line between the said Townships of Londonderry & Windham may be established agreeably to the divisional line between the two military Companies formerly belonging to the said Township of Londonderry.

*September 24th 1796.*

John Patterson  
William Cox  
John Cox  
John Jacob  
William Aiken  
Jas. Hopkins.

[On this petition appear the following indorsements:]

We the Subscribers Inhabitants of the Townships of Londonderry & Windham request that the prayer of the within Petition may be granted.

Jonathan Aiken	Jonathan Warner	Willard How
Samuel Thomson	Daniel Jacobs	Ebenr Patterson
Nehemiah How	David Thompson	Moses Patterson
Hugh Montgomery	Emerson Hodges	Patrick Larkin
Joshua Warner	Joseph Oughterson	Barnet Wait
James Patterson	David Cochran	

\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\* “In General Assembly. 14th October 1796

Read & with the remonstrance thereto & refered to Messrs. Curtis, C. Wright, & Porter to join, State facts &c.

Attest R. Whitney Clk.

In Council Oct. the 15 Day A.D. 1796 Read and Resolved that Judge Galusha be appointed to join sd. Committee.

Attest T. Squire Secry.

Rutland Oct. 20th 1796.

To the Honble the General Assembly now sitting — Your Committee to whom was refered the within petition and Remonstrance report that after having examined the merits of both — it is the opinion of your committee that the facts set up in sd. petition are true and that the prayer of this said petition be granted — All which is humbly submitted — by

Jonas Galusha for Committee.

In General Assembly 21st Octr, 1796

Read & the petition & remonstrance referred to the next Assembly of the Legislature.

Attest R. Whitney Clerk.

To the *Honourable* the *General assembly* to be convened at Windsor in Oct. instant, the remonstrance and petition of us the subscribers Inhabitants of Windham humbly *sheweth*,— That, having understood that a petition will be prefer'd to your honours by a few of the Inhabitants of Windham & Londonderry in which the late division of said towns is represented as being productive of many enormous & peculiar disadvantages resulting from the unnaturally divided situation of the same that said division has proven fatal to the inhabitants of said towns, both in town & Ecclesiastical affairs, also averring that said divisional line does not touch the Glebe Mountain so called, that a Considerable tract of land lies in Windham west of said Mountain, that the Inhabitants of said town can convene & be better accomodated at one Centre than at their respective centres, That it would be for the Interest of said towns to be reunited &c.

We, therefore, on Viewing said representation, are surprised that men of Common sense shou'd subscribe to that which is so unjust partial & inequitable — Not however to descend to their futile particulars we shall endeavor to Confine ourselves to those which we deem most Important — That the Mountain is the Grand Obstacle both parties readily acknowledge, but that there are Inhabitants or habitable Land on the west side of said Mountain in Windham your remonstrators positively deny, or that the Inhabitants of Londonderry & Windham can resort to one centre more conveniently than they can to their respective centres we aver to be equally Impossible but may with the greatest propriety declare to your honors, Nature has decidedly (as we presume) formed the sd. towns to be as they now are to which the Inhabitants Generally acknowledge their most eager & Joyful assent and are also, those of Londonderry as well as those of Windham, determined, to be perfectly resigned & agreed to the report of your honourable Commissioners Appointed to examine the Situation of the premises which report we trust may more fully evince the truth of what we have here represented as far as it may touch the merits — We can also with truth assure your honours, respecting the ecclesiastical disadvantages insisted on by said petitioners that the zealous Contentions about a centre occasioning such disagreeable feuds, together with the Natural Impossibility of being in any Advantageous degree conven'd were the sole & Cogent reasons of our making application for a division primarily. Therefore we hope that their Error being so flagrant, by our Impartial explanation may



appear to your honours in its proper Colours & do most earnestly pray that the prayer of their Petition be not granted & as in duty bound shall ever pray.

*Windham* 6th Oct. 1797.

Saml. Davis  
John Aikin  
George Person  
George Persons Junr.  
Lemuel Abbot  
Archd. McCormick  
Benjamin Farnum  
Jonathan Person  
Joseph Person  
Patrick Taggered(t)  
Arch. Mack  
Simeon Smith  
Aaron Reed  
Moses Reed  
Ithama Reed  
John Burnap  
Daniel Babbit  
James McCormick Junr.  
Benjamin Cole  
Ebenr. Farnsworth  
Samuel Wellington  
Saml. Smith  
James Smith  
Ebenezer Cumings  
John Hamilton  
David Cobb  
George McMurphy  
George McMurphy Junr.  
Samuel Taggert  
Zadock Barrett  
Daniel Chapin  
Samuel Weeks  
Nehemiah T. Pierce  
Abraham Stockwell  
Ira Babbit  
Lemuel Wyllys  
Ephraim Amadon

Abial Whitman  
Ephraim Hewett  
John Rugg  
John Scott  
Eli Scott  
Benjamin Scott  
Benj. Pierce  
Judah Dodge  
James Stearns  
Jonas Butterfield  
Naham Barret  
Sherbiah Fletcher  
Jonathan Brintnall  
John Williams  
Zacheus Bemis  
James McCormick  
Peter Abbot  
Ebenezer Rhoads  
John Hopkins  
Timothy Johnston  
Bartholomo Person  
John Glynn Junr.  
James Mack  
Edward Aiken  
Peter Aiken  
Samuel Ayers  
James Ayers  
Charles Pirkens  
John Woodburn  
James Aiken  
Jonathan Perry  
Calvin Barrett  
Daniel Cobb Junior  
Adam Streeter  
John Woodcock  
Elisha Barber

To the *Honb. the General Assembly* of the STATE OF VERMONT, of Vermont, the remonstrance & petition of us the subscribers Inhabitants of Londonderry *humbly sheweth.*

That, understanding, that a small part of the Inhabitants of Londonderry & Windham design to prefer their petition to your honors wherein they represent the late division of said towns as pregnant with many material disadvantages resulting from a division so unnatural & discommodious That said division has proven destructive to the prosperity & ahrmony of the Inhabitants of said towns both in town & church affairs,

affirming that the divisional line does not touch the Glebe Mountain so Called, that a considerable tract of habitable Land lies West of said mountain in Windham, that the Inhabitants of said towns can Convene at one Centre more advantageously than they can at their respective centres that it would be greatly for the benefit & advantage of sd. towns to be Re-united in one town as formerly &c.

We therefore on viewing said representation are astonish'd that rational men shou'd subscribe to that which most certainly Impartial Judges will esteem so unjust, partial & Inconsistent. We shall not, however particularly set forth their unjust representation, but merely mention those articles which we deem most Important & on which the affair ought to turn. That the Mountain is esteem'd by both parties the Grand Obstacle Neither will pretend to deny — but that there are inhabitants or habitable land in Windham West of said Mountain your remonstrators positively aver to be false or that the Inhabitants of Windham & Londonderry can convene to one Centre with more advantage than they can to their respective Centres is equally Impracticable. Your remonstrators therefore placing due confidence in the Honle. Committee appointed to examine the situation of the premises are perfectly resigned to their expected report which we assuredly hope, will more fully evince the truth of what we here affirm.

We also will beg Leave to enform your honours that these dissatisfied petitioners own the land situated about where the Centre of Londonderry before sd. division wou'd naturally fall, as they expected.

Your remonstrators therefore hoping that when their said petition shall appear in its proper Colours & your honours be sensible of its demerit you will not Grant the prayer thereof and as in duty bound shall ever pray.

*Londonderry 7th Oct. 1797.*

DAVID COCHRAN

Stephen Chafey  
Elisha Collidge  
George Hewes  
Joseph Danby (Darby)  
Jonathan Emmons  
Benja. Hoar  
Amos Cook  
John Wakefield  
Joseph Allen  
Ebenezer Cobb  
Samuel Cobb.

Samuel Arnold  
Royal P. Wheeler  
Noah Whitman  
Rufus Thayer  
Elisha Cook  
Abiram Stacey  
Samuel Hayward  
Joseph Allen Junr.  
William Arnold  
Nehemiah Allen

To the *honble General Assembly* of the STATE OF VERMONT to be holden at Windsor in the County of Windsor on the second thursday of October next.

Your Committee to whom was refered the petition of John Patterson & others, Inhabitants of Windham, in the County of Windham praying to be set off from sd. Windham to the Town of Londonderry in sd. County at the session of the Assembly in October last, & A remonstrance of Saml. Arnold & others agt. the prayer of Sd. Petition, after twelve days notice being given to the Parties; met at Windham in Sd. County on the 16th day of Decr. 1796, and after hearing the parties: on motion of the Party signing the



remonstrance for an adjournment replied to by the Petitioners agreed to adjourn until the 31st day of May 1797 at sd. Windham Which time & place your Committee met, & after considering Sd. Petition & remonstrance, the evidence & matters thereto appertaining make the following report — The Towns of Londonderry & Windham being divided by a mountain extending thro' almost half of Sd. Towns north & south; but the wast land of Sd. Mountain Chiefly lying in the Town of Windham; the Petitioners living in the northwesterly part of Sd Town, we apprehend may be commoded by a road not yet laid out, nearly as well as if annexed to Londonderry, when the same is made passable; which we think can be done without very great expence; adding to the above, that if the prayer of Sd. petition should be granted, the north line of the Town of Windham will be but about two miles & an half long, & the north line of Londonderry above five miles long, and chiefly inhabitable land; Your Committee therefor give it as our Opinion that the Prayer of Sd. Petition ought not to be granted.

Signed with our hands at Sd. Windham this 31st day of May *Anno Domini* 1797. Samuel Fletcher for Committee.

In General Assembly 17th Octr. 1797. The Report of the Como. read and not agreed to — Ordered That the prayer of the original petition be granted and That Mr. Marsh bring in a bill accordingly.

Attt. R. WHITNEY *Clerk.*

AN ACT, annexing part of Windham to Londonderry.  
It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That the dividing line between the towns of Windham and Londonderry, shall be hereafter known and established as hereafter described, to wit, beginning at the north line of Windham, where Middle Brook, so called, crosses the same, from thence southerly up said brook, to the foot of Glebe Mountain, so called, thence running a direct course, to the top of said mountain, to the ancient south line of Londonderry, any law heretofore to the contrary notwithstanding.

*Passed Oct. 21, 1797.*

### PETITION

*To the Honorable the General Assembly of the STATE of VERMONT now convened at Windsor.*

The Petition of James Rogers, formerly of Kent now called Londonderry in this State but late of Fredericksburg in Upper Canada disceased, humbly sheweth

That your Petitioner's father was at the commencement of the late War in America Possessed in fee of a Township of land in this State formerly called Kent but now Londonderry by virtue of a Patent under the Great Seal of the then Province of New York. That in pursuance of a resolution of the Representatives of this State at their Session at Westminster in March 1780 A Committee of trust were appointed to sell the then unsettled part of said Londonderry for the use of this State. That said Committee are yet in Commission for the sale of said lands some part thereof still remaining unsold.

That the Estate of your Petitioner's father not being confiscated by Law of this State the Commissioners of American claims appointed by the Court of Great Britain "to inquire into the losses and services of all persons who suffered in their Rights, Properties and Possessions during the late War in America in Consequence of their loyalty to the Crown and Government of Great Britain" Would not allow compensation for the lands in Londonderry except such part thereof as were actually sold previous to the Treaty of peace betwixt his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America the said Commissioners alledging that agreeable to said treaty all property belonging to Loyalists Estates ought to be restored which had not been legally Confiscated or absolutely sold.

That your Petitioner and the other heirs resided in this State and in the said town of Londonderry during the said War and until the year 1785.

Wherefore your Petitioner humbly prays, That said Committee of trust be authorized and required to convey to your Petitioner all the land, in said Londonderry which remains unsold and unappropriated upon such conditions as your honors in your wisdom shall deem meet

And your Petitioner will ever pray

JAMES ROGERS.

*Windsor 14th October 1795.*

(The Committee to whom this Petition was referred made Report on the same, as follows:)

To the Genl Assembly now sitting your Committee to whome was referred this petition report, that on examination we find that the facts stated in sd petition are true, that the prair thereof ought to be granted, so far that the Come of Trust appointed by this State, Deed all the Lands in Londonderry which they have not heretofore deeded or appropriated, to the heirs of the sd James Rogers, on their paying, or securing, to the Treasurer of this State the Sum of one thousand Dollars — to be paid in one year from the rising of this Legislature, reserving in sd Grant or Deed from the Comrs the right to suit if any there be who have made settlement on any of the lands and have not taken out from the Comrs the right of holding the lot on which they have settled, by their pay to sd heirs the value of the land at the time of entering upon the same and that the Petitioners have leave to bring in a bill accordingly

JOHN STRONG for Comee

AN ACT directing certain trustees to deed the land mentioned  
PASSED Oct. 23d 1795.

WHEREAS in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight the then township of Kent in this State was confiscated on the property of James Rogers — and was afterwards on the 20 of April 1780 granted by the name of Londonderry to Edward Aiken, Samuel Fletcher and Joseph Tyler Esquires as trustees to dispose of the same for the use of this State, a part of which township now remains unsold and unappropriated by said trustees, and the heirs of said Rogers having petitioned that said trustees be directed to deed the same to them —

IT IS HEREBY ENACTED by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont that Edward Aiken, Samuel Fletcher and Joseph Tyler esquires trustees as aforesaid be and they are hereby authorized and directed to



convey by deed of quit claim to James Rogers for the use of himself and the other heirs of Colo James Rogers their respective heirs and assigns forever all the lands in the township of Londonderry, public rights excepted, which are now unconveyed by said trustees, upon the said James Rogers paying into the treasury of this State one thousand dollars, or giving security to the treasurer of this State for the payment of said sum within two years from the rising of the present session of the Legislature — And if any person who has not taken a deed from said trustees (and is in possession of and has made improvements upon any lot which shall be deeded by said trustees to said Rogers) shall within two years from the passing of this act pay or tender to the said Rogers the price of said lot for which the trustees sold lands of equal value at the time such person took possession of said lot, it shall be the duty of said James Rogers to deed to such person the lot he is in possession of — And if upon tender of payment as aforesaid the said James Rogers shall refuse or neglect to deed to such person or persons such lot or lots he shall take no benefit or title by virtue of the deed given him by said trustees so far as respects such lots.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, that at the time said trustees shall deed as aforesaid to the said heirs, the petitioner James Rogers as executor of the last will and testament of James Rogers deceased shall relinquish all claim to the lands in said Londonderry which have heretofore been deeded by said trustees — PROVIDED ALSO that the said James Rogers shall appoint and have an agent in the said town of Londonderry or be there himself to receive the money which shall be tendered by said settlers and shall notify the same by a certificate lodged in the town clerk's office in said town.

### PETITION

To the *Honorable the General Assembly* of the STATE of VERMONT now Convened at Windsor.

The petition of James Rogers of Chester in behalf of himself and the other heirs of James Rogers deceased humbly sheweth,—

That in the year 1795 your petitioner preferred a petition to the honorable the General Assembly of this State Showing that his father James Rogers now deceased was possessed in fee of a township of land in this State formerly called Kent now Londonderry & Windham and that in pursuance of a resolution of the General Assembly of this State at their session in Westminster in the year 1780 a Committee of trust was appointed to sell the lands aforesaid for the use of this State and that said Committee were then in commission for the sale of said lands and that some part of said lands then remained unsold and that the Estate of your petitioner's father not being confiscated by law of this State the Commissioners of American Claims would not allow compensation for any part of the Estate of your petitioners father except such part thereof as had been legally confiscated or absolutely sold previous to the treaty of peace betwixt Great-britain and the United States of America the said commissioners alledging that agreeable to said Treaty all property belonging to Loyalists estate ought to be restored which had not been legally confiscated and absolutely sold and that your petitioner and the other heirs of the said James Rogers deceased resided in said Londonderry untill the year 1785 and therefore prayed that said Trustees might be authorized to convey to your petitioner for the use of himself and the other heirs of said James Rogers deceased all the land



that then remained unsold in said Londonderry which said petition being heard by the General Assembly an act passed authorizing said trustees to convey to your petitioner all the land in said Londonderry that then remained unsold and unappropriated and requiring your petitioner to pay one thousand dollars which your petitioner has paid into the treasury of this State said Act also required your petitioner to execute and deliver to said trustees a Quit-claim deed of all lands in said Londonderry sold by said trustees previous to the passing of said Act with which your petitioner hath complied. And your petitioner further sheweth that your petitioner in 1797 preferred a petition to the General Assembly of this State praying that said trustees might be authorized to account to your petitioner for the avails of the lands by them sold in said Londonderry except such part of said avails of said trustees had paid into the treasury of this State and an Act passed the General Assembly authorizing said trustees to account to your petitioner for the avails of all the land by them sold in said Londonderry except such part of said avails as said trustees had previous to the passing of said Act paid into the treasury of this State said act requiring your petitioner to pay said trustees the whole amount of all the costs and charges which had accrued against this State and become payable to said trustees for executing the business of said trust which cost and charges your petitioner hath paid said trustees amounting to one thousand dollars—

Said act also required your petitioner to secure to the treasury of this State the payment of four hundred dollars with which your petitioner complied.

Your petitioner further humbly sheweth that on settlement with said trustees they exhibited an account to the amount of upwards of three thousand dollars which said trustees had paid into the treasury of this State out of the avails of said Lands in Londonderry which sum so received out of the Estate of the said James Rogers deceased by this State and by the trustees aforesaid amounts to upwards of five thousand dollars which sum is much greater than your petitioner had reason to expect at the time of passing the Act last mentioned and secured to the treasury of this State the payment of four hundred dollars as aforesaid. And your petitioner further humbly sheweth that the lands so sold by the trustees as aforesaid contained a very large proportion of all the valuable and saleable lands in said Londonderry so that your petitioner hath hitherto been unable to raise the money to pay the said last sum of four hundred dollars which will become payable to the treasury on the 6th day of November next.

Your petitioner therefore humbly prayeth —  
That your honors will take the matters aforesaid into your wise and favourable consideration and discharge your petitioner from the payment of said sum of four hundred dollars or suspend the payment thereof to some future period or otherwise grant such redress as your honors in your wisdom shall deem meet — and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

JAMES ROGERS.

*Windsor October 16th 1799.*

(Committee's Report on above Petition)

*Windsor October 21 1799*

To the *Honorable the General Assembly* now sitting Your Committee to whom was referd the Petition of James Rogers Report that on examination we find the facts therein stated to be true and that the prayer thereof



Ought to be Granted by Dischargeing sd Rogers from the payment of the sum of four hundred to the Treasurer of this State.

ELISHA ALLIS for Committee.

AN ACT directing the treasurer of this State to give up a certain bond.

*WHEREAS* it hath been made to appear to this Assembly that James Rogers formerly of Londonderry, now deceased, was in his life time seized in fee of the town of Londonderry, alias Kent, in this State — And that during the late war between Great Britain and America, the said James joined the British government, and that afterwards, to wit, in the year 1780 a committee of trust was appointed by the Legislature of this State, to sell lands for the use of this state — And that some part of said lands remaining unsold in the year 1795, the said James Rogers being then dead, James Rogers, son of the said James deceased, petitioned, on behalf of himself and the other heirs of the said James deceased, that the lands which then remained unsold in the said Londonderry, by the commissioners aforesaid might be restored to them agreeably to the treaty of peace between his Brittanic Majesty and the United States which the Legislature granted upon condition that the said James would pay the sum of one thousand dollars to the treasury of this state, with which the said James complied — And whereas it further appears that the said James petitioned the General Assembly in the year 1797 that he might be enabled to make a settlement with said Committee of trust, and that an act passed for that purpose, conditioned that the said James should pay said commissioners for attending to the sales in said town which it was then supposed would not exceed four or five hundred dollars — And that the said James gave his bond with surety for the payment of \$400. to the treasurer of this State payable the tenth day of November A.D. 1799, and that upon a settlement with said committee of their accounts against this State for their services in the sale of said lands, their accounts amounted to one thousand dollars, which the said James hath actually advanced to them on behalf of this state; and the said James for the reasons aforesaid, having prayed to this Assembly to release to him the payment of the said sum of \$400. therefore — IT IS HEREBY ENACTED by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, that the treasurer of this State, be and he is hereby directed to give up to James Rogers to be cancelled a bond executed by James Rogers and George Sexton for the penal sum of \$800. conditioned for the payment of four hundred dollars, by the sixth day of November A.D. 1799.

*Passed October 23, 1799.*

AN ACT directing certain trustees, to make the conveyance  
and transfer therein mentioned.

PASSED Nov. 6 1797.

*WHEREAS* in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight the then township of Kent was confiscated as the property of James Rogers, late of Upper Canada deceased, and was on the twentieth day of April one thousand seven hundred and eighty granted by the name of Londonderry to Edward Aiken, Samuel Fletcher and Joseph Tyler Esquires, as trustees to dispose of the same for the use of this State, part of which township remains in the care of said trustees — And whereas James Rogers, son and heir of James Rogers above mentioned, hath petitioned that said land and the avails thereof be granted to him — Therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ENACTED by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont that Edward Aiken, Samuel Fletcher and Joseph Tyler Esqrs be and they are hereby authorized and required to convey to James Rogers by deed of quit-claim, all right and title to lands in Londonderry and Windham which said trustees now hold in right of and in behalf of this State — Also to transfer to said James Rogers all right and property, which said trustees, in their said capacity, now have to lands in Londonderry and Windham, by virtue of mortgage — Also to pay and transfer to the said James Rogers all property which said trustees now have in notes of hand, or other writings obligatory which said trustees now hold as security for the payment of any sum or sums of money, due for lands by said trustees, heretofore sold in their capacity aforesaid, and generally to account to said James Rogers for the avails of all lands by said trustees heretofore sold, in their aforesaid capacity, except such part of said avails as said trustees have paid into the treasury of this State.

PROVIDED ALWAYS that at the time said trustees convey to said James Rogers all property and right which said trustees now have in their capacity aforesaid, to lands in Londonderry and Windham and transfer the avails thereof as aforesaid, the said James Rogers shall pay said trustees the amount of all costs and charges, which hath accrued against this State and become payable to said trustees for executing the business of said trust — And when said trustees shall convey and transfer as aforesaid the said James Rogers shall deliver to said trustees a discharge, which shall exonerate said trustees from all demands of this State, upon said trustees for the avails of the sales of lands in Londonderry and Windham and every part thereof.

PROVIDED ALSO, that said James Rogers shall not prosecute his right to any settled lands assigned by mortgage as aforesaid until the expiration of one year from the passing of this act — And,

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED, that the said James Rogers be and he is hereby fully authorized and empowered in the name and behalf of this State to do and transact all acts and things, acquiring and possessing the property aforesaid as fully and effectually as said trustees are, or ever were empowered, for the use and at the expense of said James Rogers— PROVIDED ALSO, that the said James Rogers secure to the treasury of this State, the payment of four hundred dollars within two years from the passing of this act.



# Index

*NOTE: In this short index only the persons, places and events important to this town are listed. With the exception of listing surnames of Families treated in the Genealogical section, this index does not attempt to list the hundreds of names which appear there.*

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